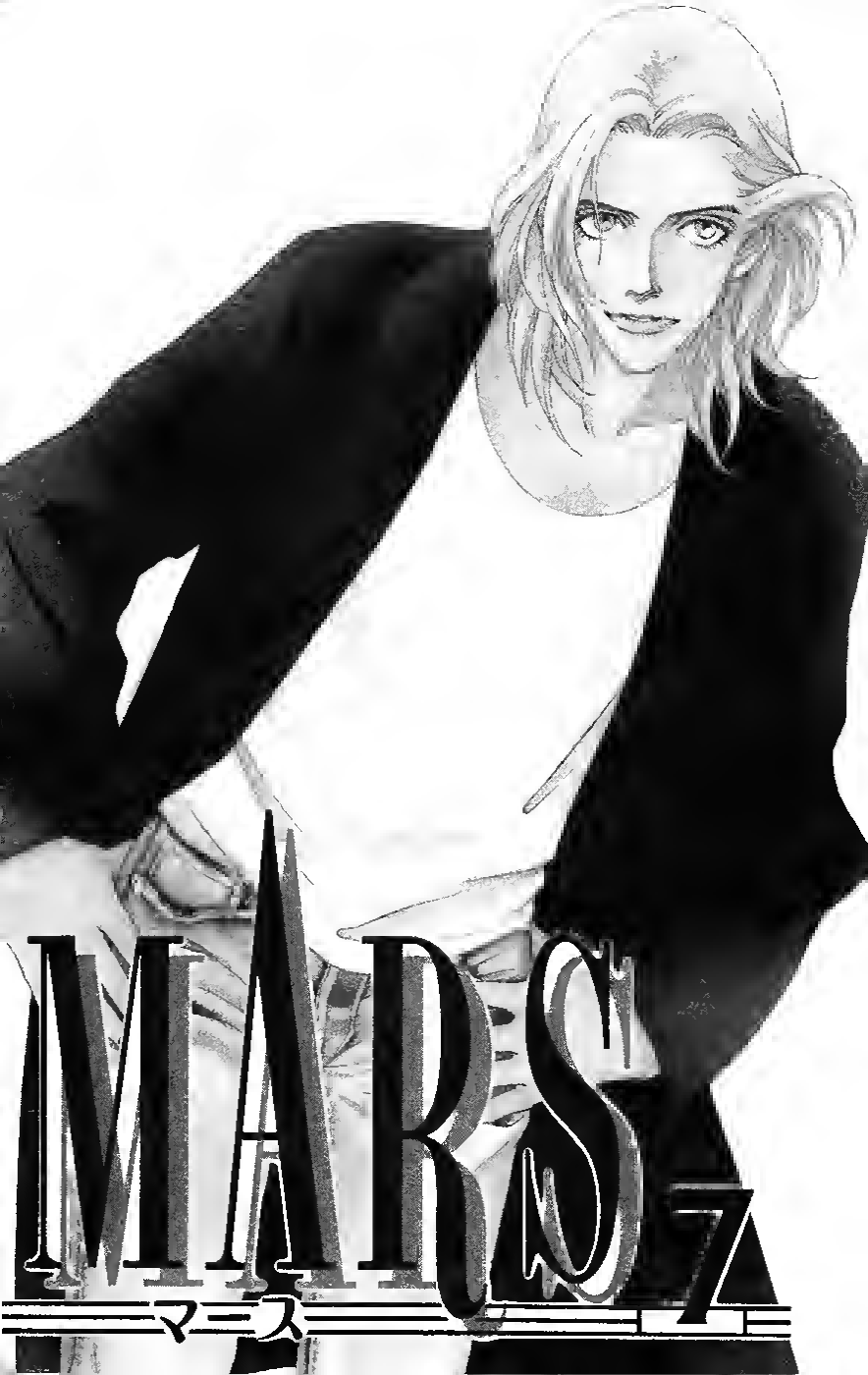
# MARS

7

by Fuyumi Soryo


MARS
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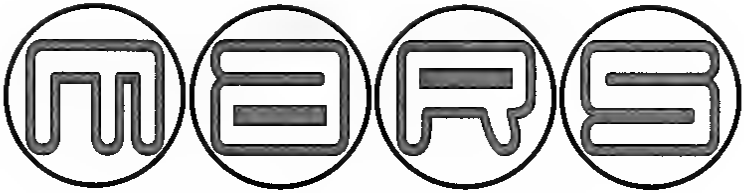
7




**Volume 7**

**By Fuyumi Soryo**

TOKYOPOP®

LOS ANGELES • TOKYO

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A TOKYOPOP® Manga
TOKYOPOP® is an imprint of Mixx Entertainment Inc
5900 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 2000, Los Angeles, CA 90036

© 1996 Fuyumi Soryo First published in 1996 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo. English publication rights arranged through Kodansha Ltd

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ISBN: 1-59182-072-3

First TOKYOPOP® printing: December 2002

10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Printed in Canada

# MARS

## LEGEND OF MARS

Rei Kashino
A high school student who races motorcycles and likes Kira's paintings. His twin brother Sei committed suicide.

Harumi
Kira's friend. She watches over Rei and Kira's love.

The story so far:

Kira starts crushing on Rei when she spots him smooching a statue of Mars in the art studio. Rei falls for Kira after seeing a sketch she'd done of a mother and child. Before long, they grow closer and start going out. When the new semester starts, Masao Kirishima, a new student, shocks the student body by confessing that he likes Rei Kashino!! While rumors fly about him around school, Masao joins the art club. Meanwhile, Kira and Rei find out Masao killed someone a couple of years ago, though it was supposedly in self-defense. When Masao says the guy deserved to die, Kira can't believe how cold-blooded he is. Then Masao makes Rei mad by asking how his brother died. Rei grabs Masao by the neck, and...

Kira Aso
Her painting of Rei won first prize in an art show. She loves him, but her anxiety about his dark side is deepening every day.

Masao Kirishima
A new student who is infatuated with Rei. Two years ago, he killed someone.

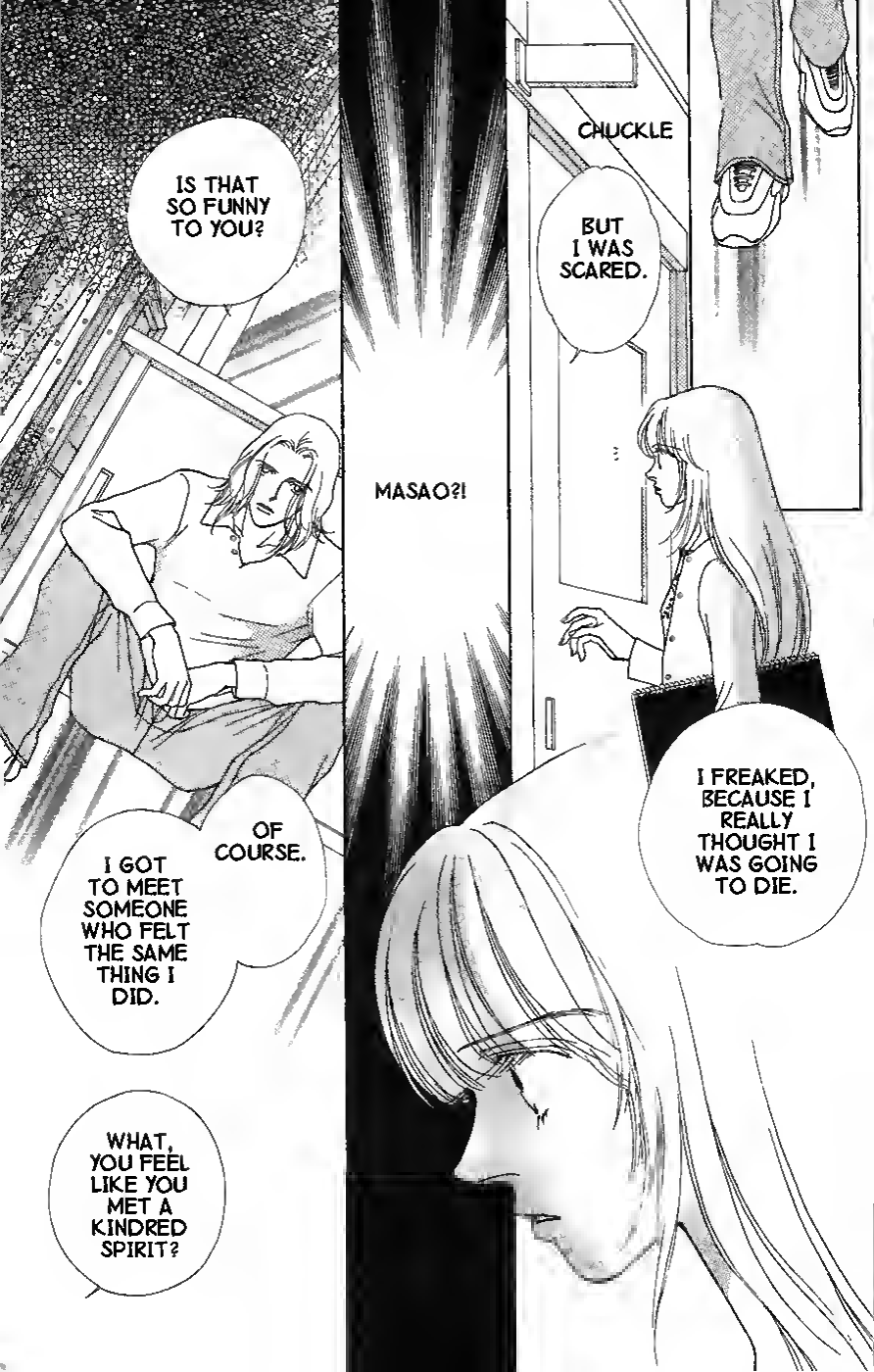
SO HOW DOES IT FEEL...
...TO BE STRANGLED?
DOES IT HURT?
IT MUST FEEL LIKE BEING SWEPT AWAY SOMEWHERE.
EVERY PORE IN YOUR BODY IS OPEN, AND A COLD SWEAT IS POURING OUT.
EVERYTHING GOES DARK AND YOU CAN'T HEAR A THING..

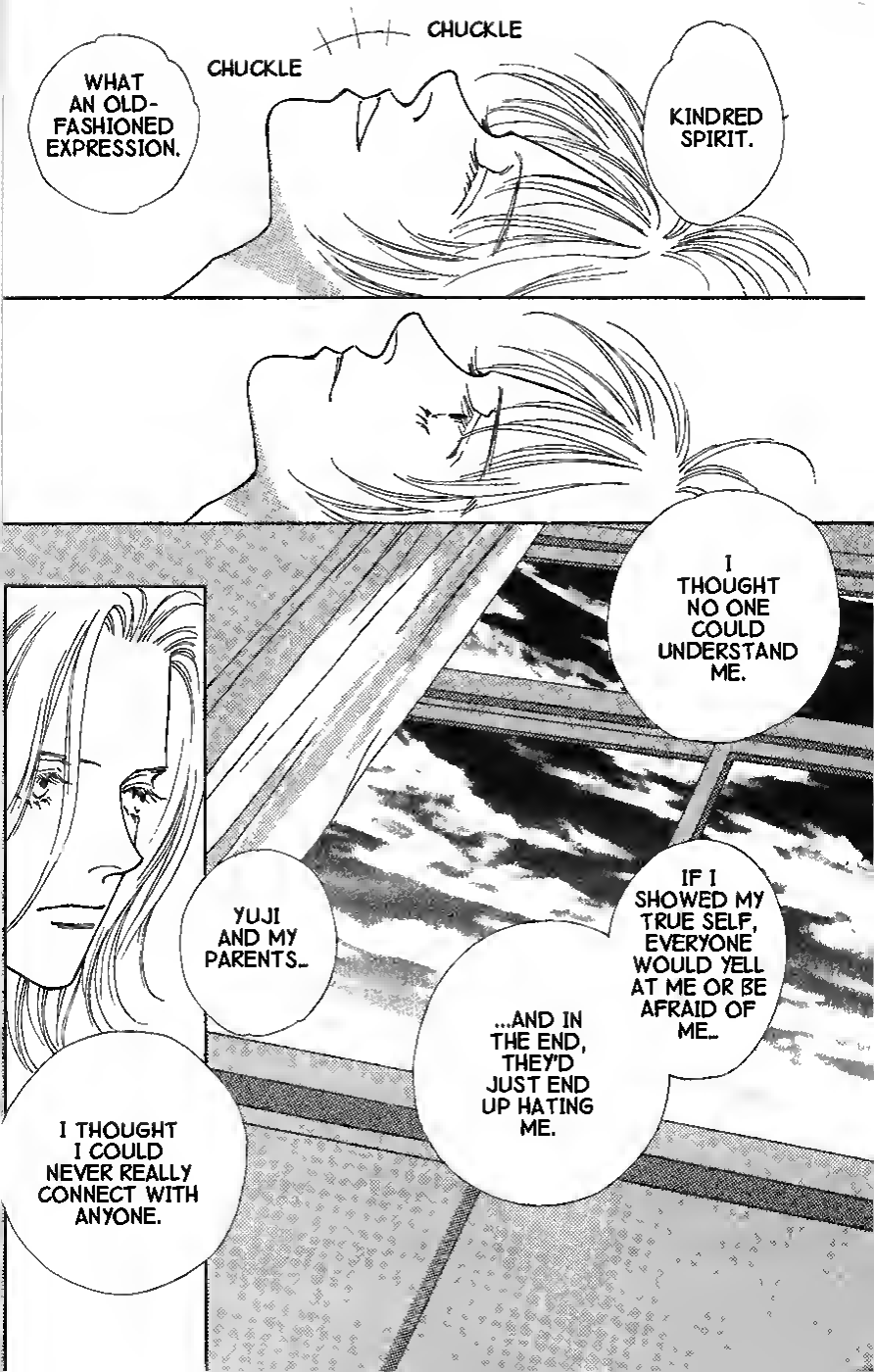
HIC
BAM
BAM
ARE YOU AFRAID OF DYING?
DON'T WORRY...
SOON THESE FEARS WON'T MATTER ANYMORE.
YOU WON'T FEEL ANYTHING EVER AGAIN.
HOW CONVENIENT.
IT'S FINE WHEN OTHER PEOPLE DIE, BUT YOU DON'T WANT TO DIE YOURSELF.

HEEEY!
CRAASH
WHO BROKE THE WINDOW?
SORRY.
MY HAND SLIPPED.
THAT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE PLAYING BALL WHERE YOU SHOULDN'T BE.
GEFF..

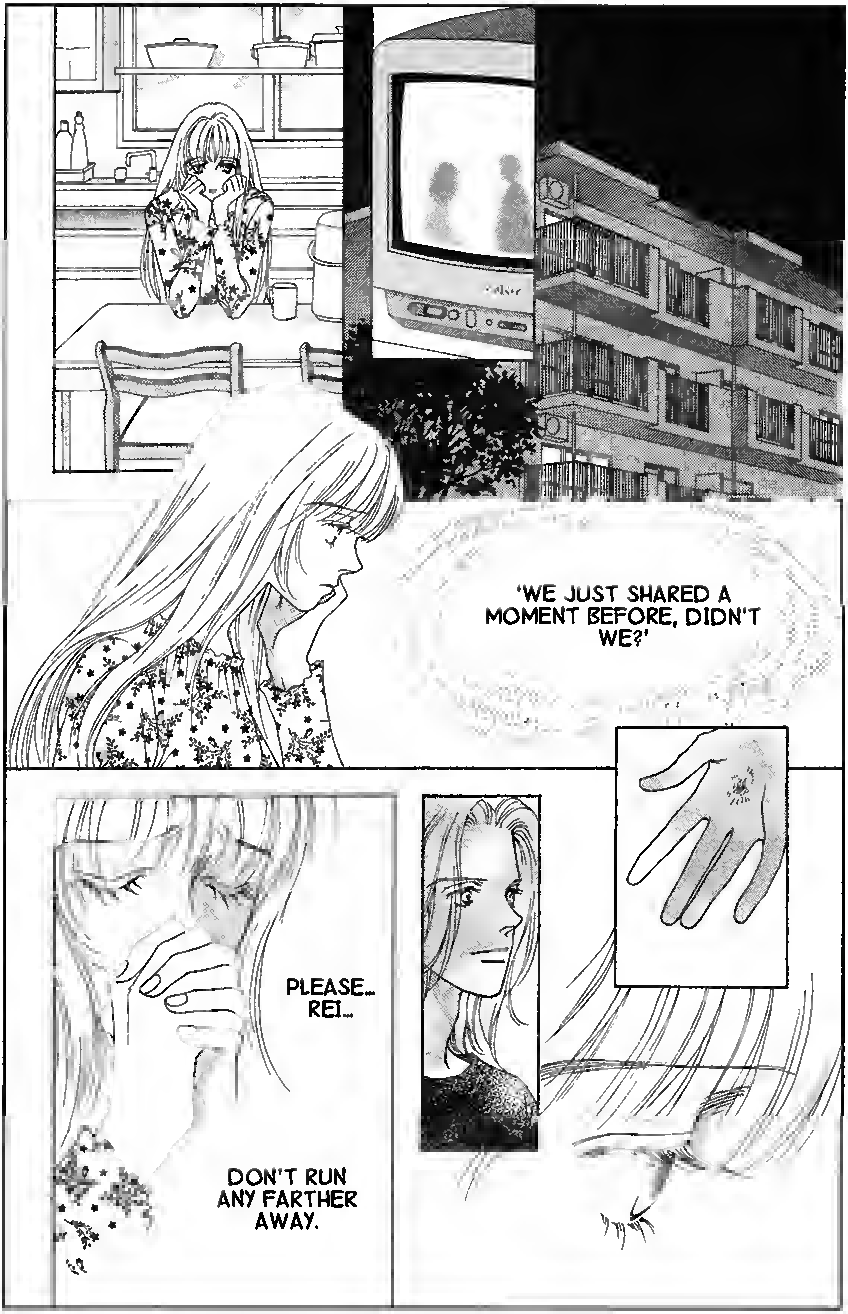
COUGH
COUGH
COUGH
IF YOU DON'T NEED TO BE HERE, GO ON HOME.
SCHOOL IS OVER.
WHEEZE..
WHEEZE..
!
HA...
HAHAHA...

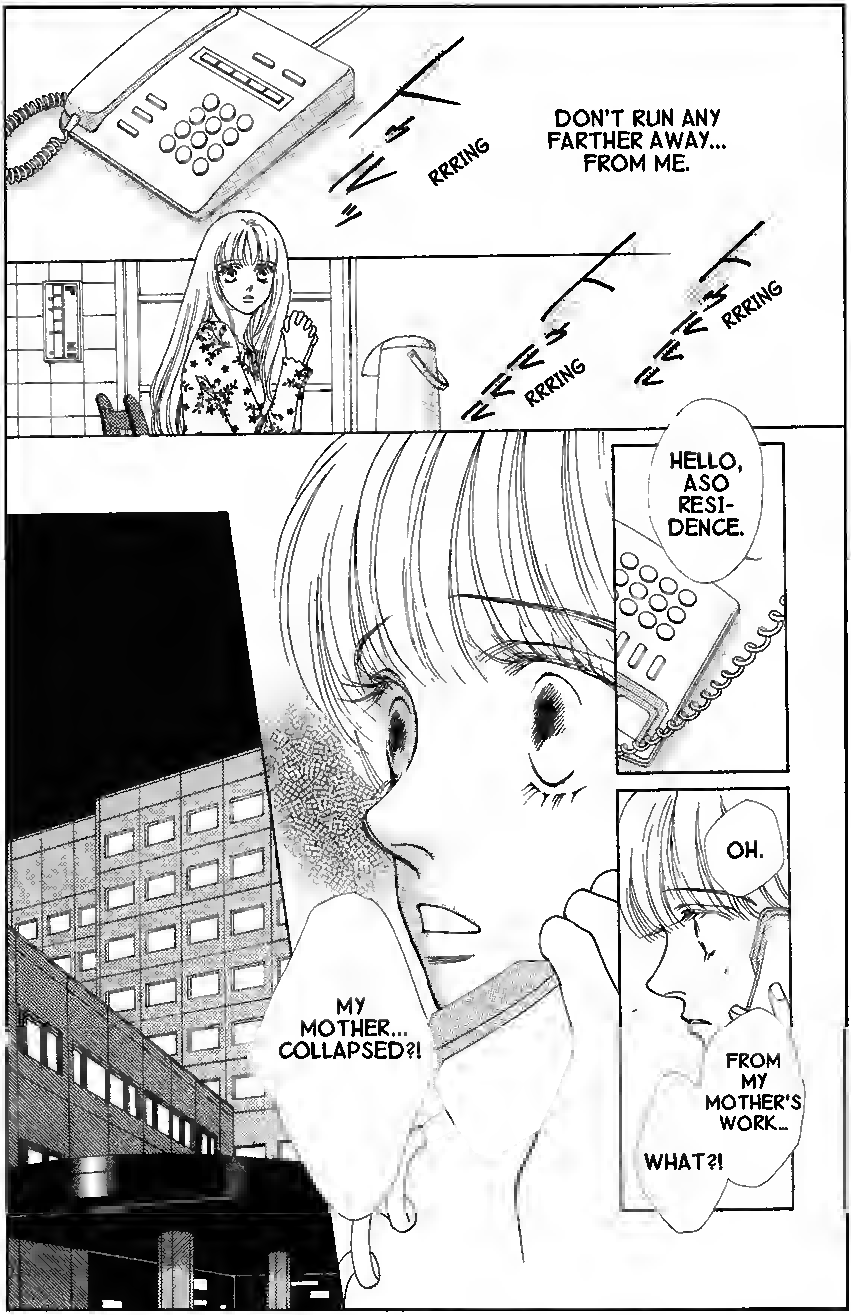
HEE HEE...
KEKEK
HEY,
YOU WERE SERIOUS A MINUTE AGO, WEREN'T YOU?
AT FIRST YOU JUST MEANT TO SCARE ME...
BUT BY THE END YOU REALLY WANTED TO KILL ME...
RIGHT?

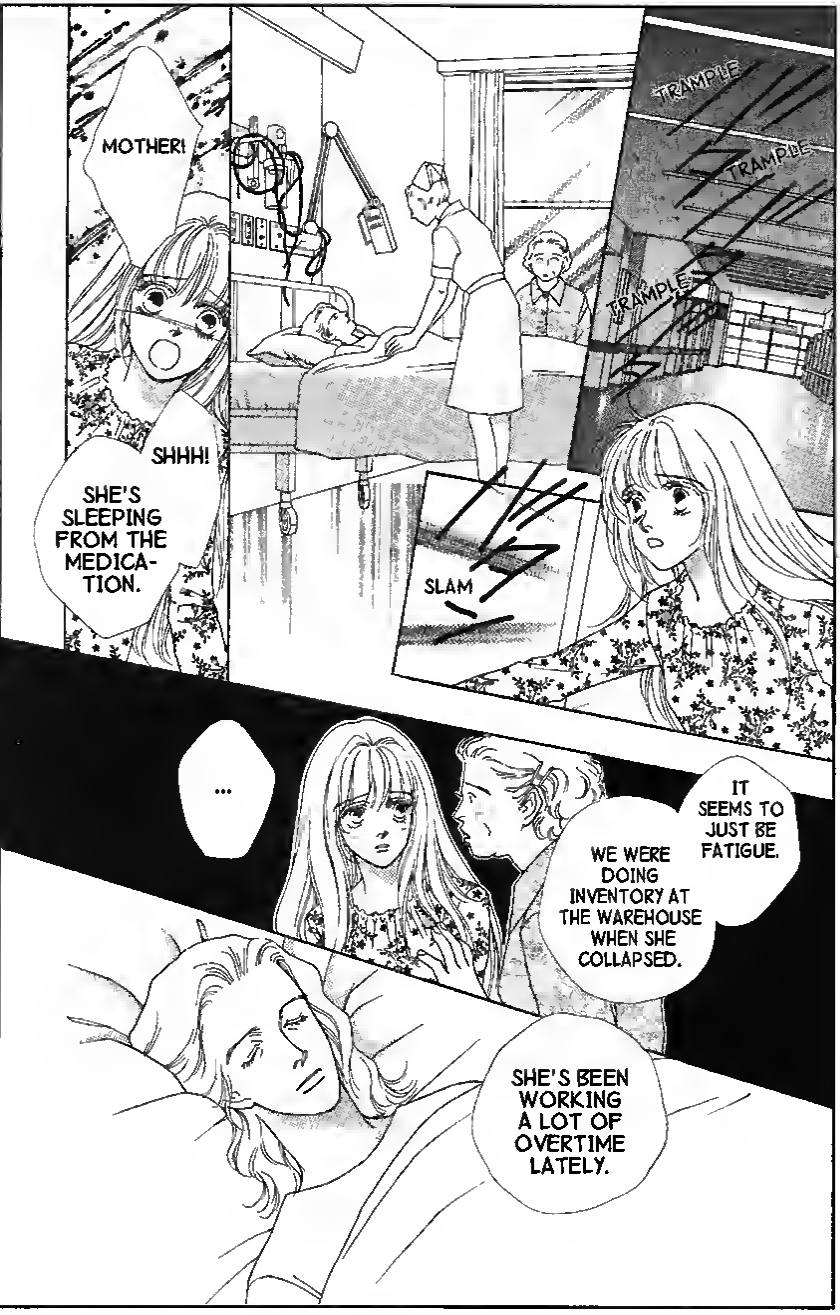

CHUCKLE
BUT I WAS SCARED.
MASAO?!
I FREAKED, BECAUSE I REALLY THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO DIE.
IS THAT SO FUNNY TO YOU?
OF COURSE.
I GOT TO MEET SOMEONE WHO FELT THE SAME THING I DID.
WHAT, YOU FEEL LIKE YOU MET A KINDRED SPIRIT?

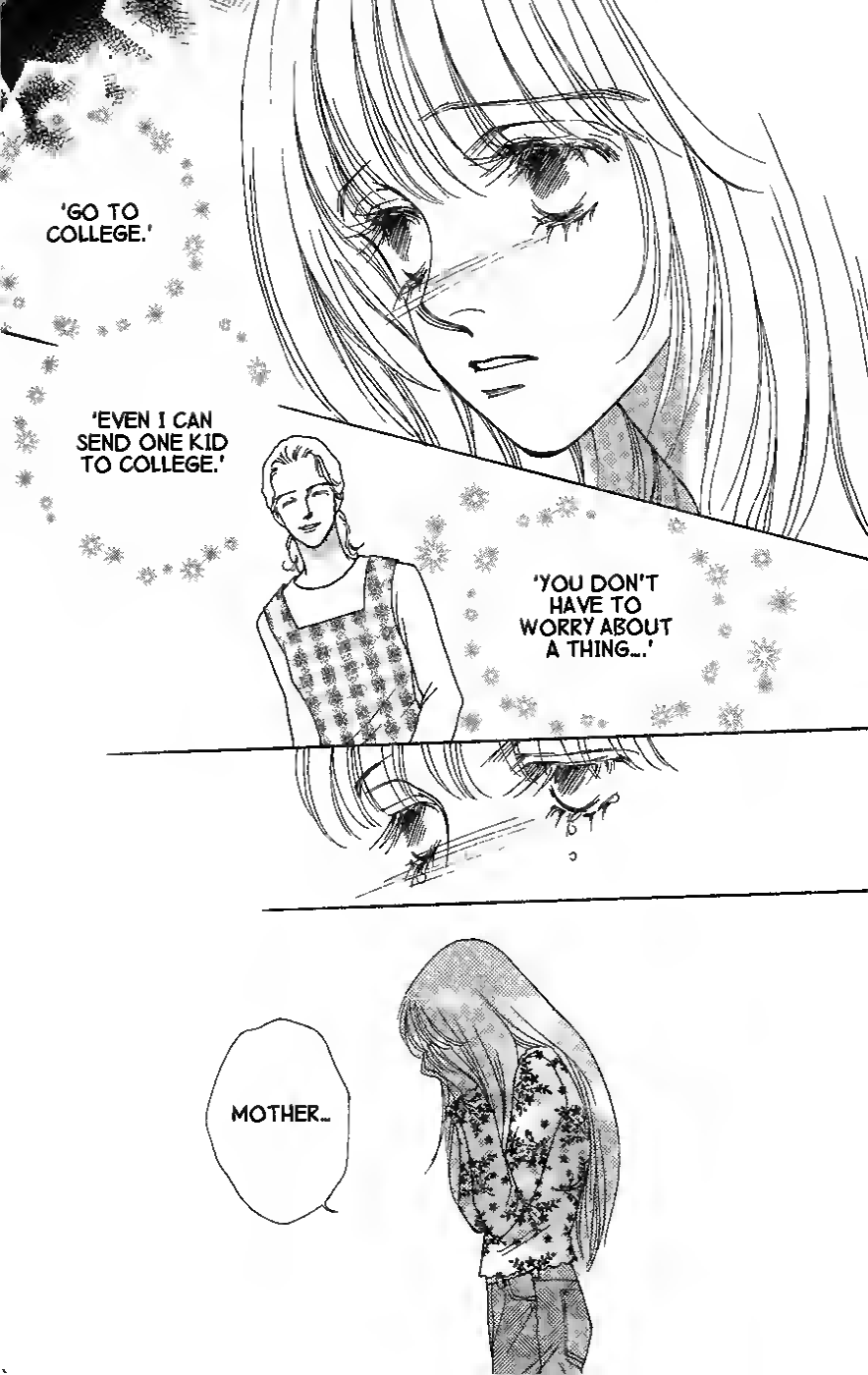

CHUCKLE
CHUCKLE
WHAT AN OLD-FASHIONED EXPRESSION.
KINDRED SPIRIT.
I THOUGHT NO ONE COULD UNDERSTAND ME.
IF I SHOWED MY TRUE SELF, EVERYONE WOULD YELL AT ME OR BE AFRAID OF ME...
YUJI AND MY PARENTS...
...AND IN THE END, THEY'D JUST END UP HATING ME.
I THOUGHT I COULD NEVER REALLY CONNECT WITH ANYONE.

WE JUST SHARED A MOMENT BEFORE..
...DIDN'T WE?

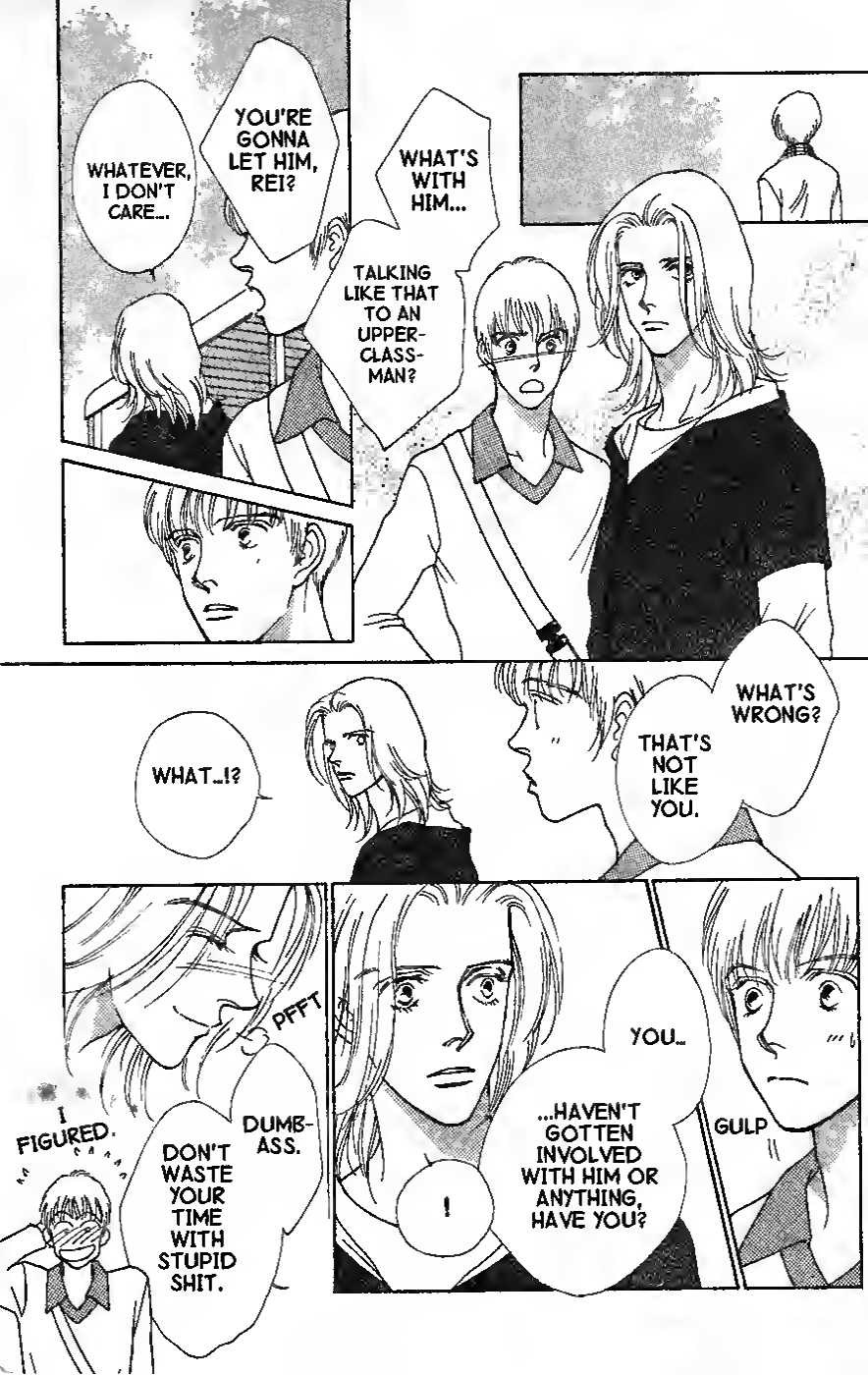

'WE JUST SHARED A MOMENT BEFORE, DIDN'T WE?'
PLEASE... REI...
DON'T RUN ANY FARTHER AWAY.

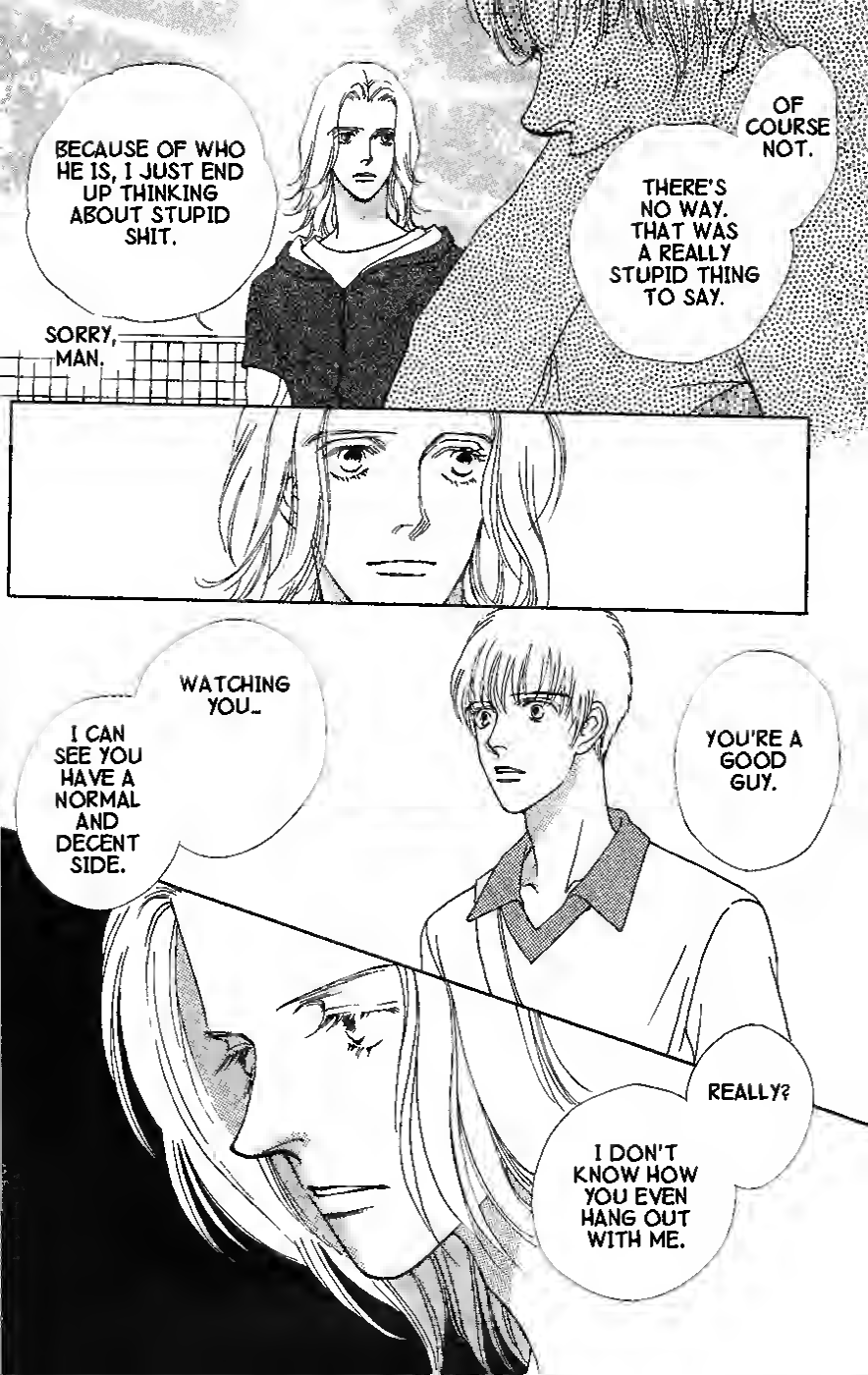

RRRING
DON'T RUN ANY FARTHER AWAY... FROM ME.
RRRING
RRRING
RRRING
HELLO, ASO RESI-DENCE.
OH.
FROM MY MOTHER'S WORK...
WHAT?!
MY MOTHER... COLLAPSED?!

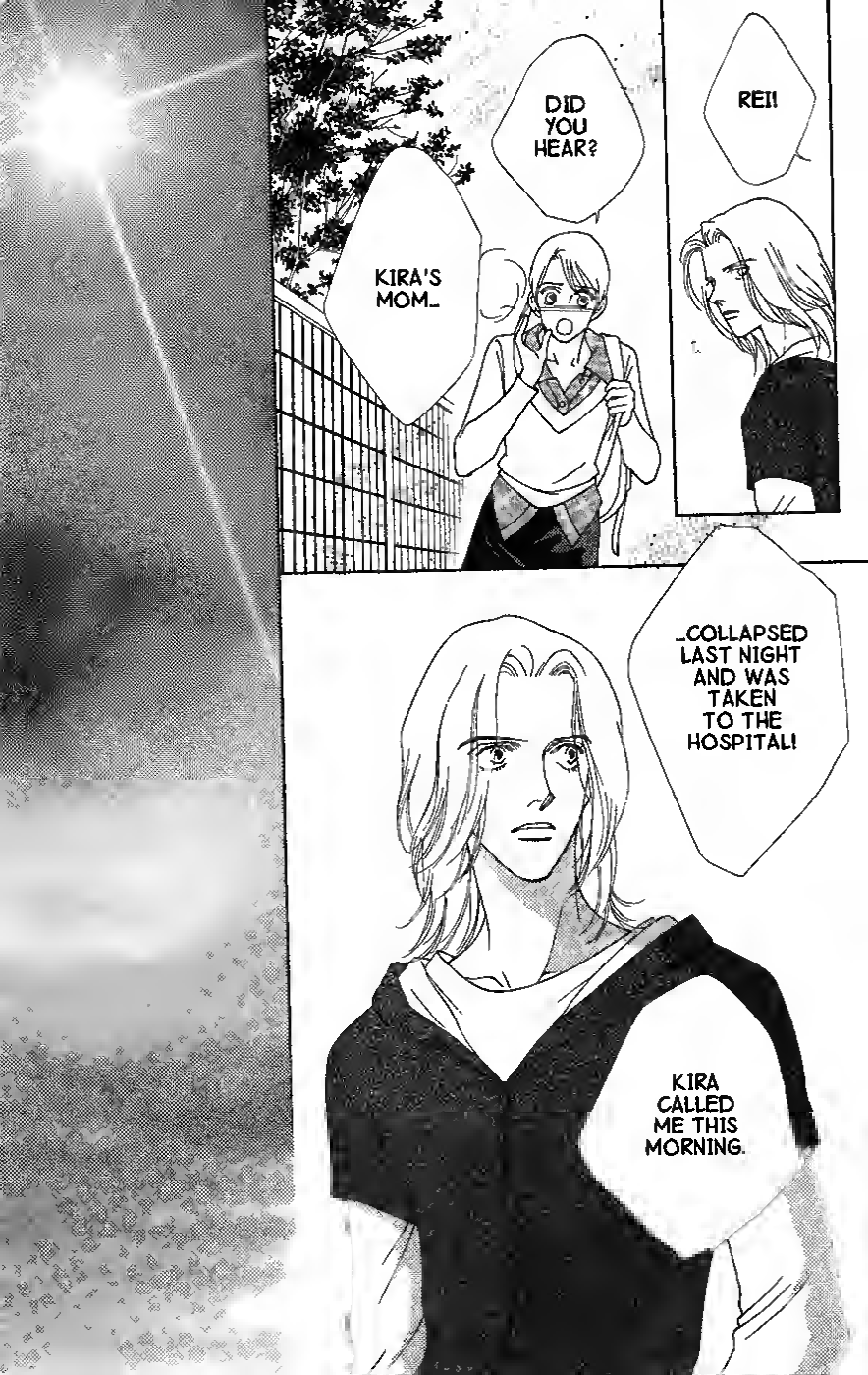

MOTHER!
SHHH!
SHE'S SLEEPING FROM THE MEDICA-TION.
SLAM
TRAMPLE
TRAMPLE
TRAMPLE
...
WE WERE DOING INVENTORY AT THE WAREHOUSE WHEN SHE COLLAPSED.
IT SEEMS TO JUST BE FATIGUE.
SHE'S BEEN WORKING A LOT OF OVERTIME LATELY.


'GO TO COLLEGE.'
'EVEN I CAN SEND ONE KID TO COLLEGE.'
'YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT A THING...'
MOTHER...

HEY.
MORNING.
I HEARD FROM ATSUSHI AND THOSE GUYS...
...THAT YOU'VE BEEN RAKING IN THE MONEY AT A POOL BAR?
YEAH, I QUIT THAT ALREADY.
KIRA DIDN'T LIKE IT, SO IT'S BACK TO THE DAYS OF MANUAL LABOR
SPEAKING OF KIRA, WHAT'S BEEN GOING ON WITH YOU GUYS LATELY?
MORNING, REI.

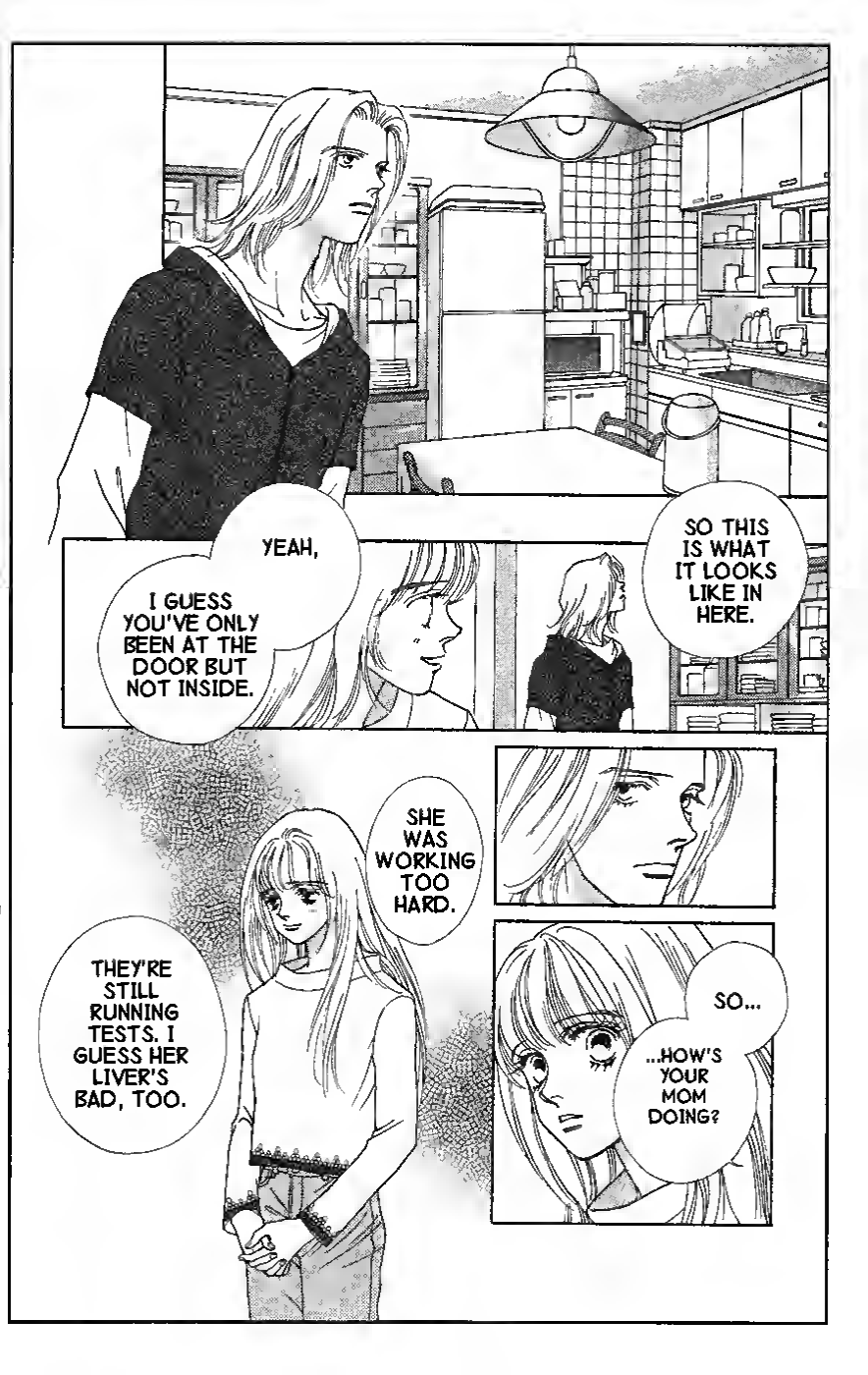

WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE...
YOU'RE GONNA LET HIM, REI?
WHAT'S WITH HIM...
TALKING LIKE THAT TO AN UPPER-CLASS-MAN?
WHAT'S WRONG?
THAT'S NOT LIKE YOU.
WHAT...!?
YOU...
...HAVEN'T GOTTEN INVOLVED WITH HIM OR ANYTHING, HAVE YOU?
!
GULP
PFFT
DUMB-ASS.
DON'T WASTE YOUR TIME WITH STUPID SHIT.
I FIGURED.


BECAUSE OF WHO HE IS, I JUST END UP THINKING ABOUT STUPID SHIT.
SORRY, MAN.
OF COURSE NOT.
THERE'S NO WAY. THAT WAS A REALLY STUPID THING TO SAY.
WATCHING YOU...
I CAN SEE YOU HAVE A NORMAL AND DECENT SIDE.
YOU'RE A GOOD GUY.
REALLY?
I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU EVEN HANG OUT WITH ME.

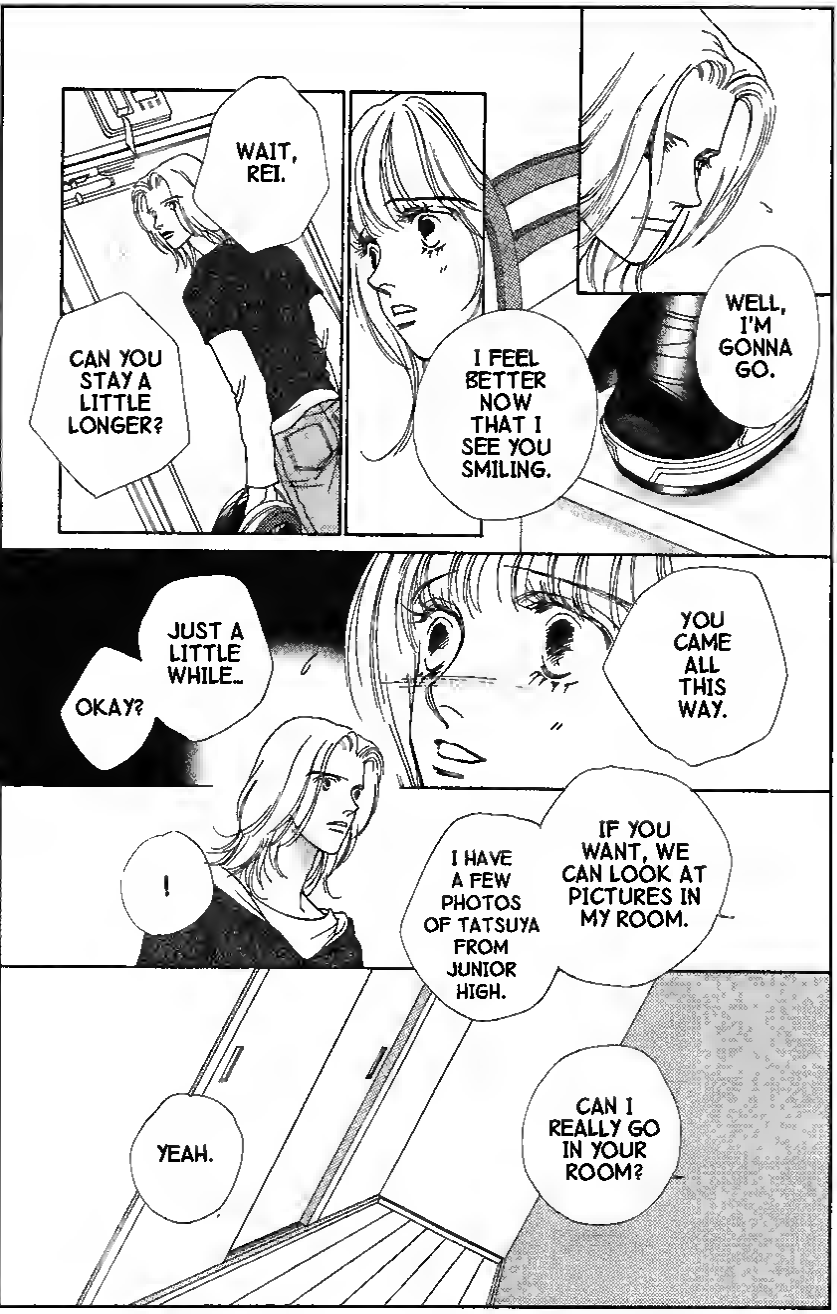

REI!
DID YOU HEAR?
KIRA'S MOM...
...COLLAPSED LAST NIGHT AND WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL!
KIRA CALLED ME THIS MORNING.

YOU CAN GO NOW, KIRA.
I'LL BE OKAY.
I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO MISS SCHOOL.
I'LL BE BACK AGAIN...
...TOMOR-ROW AFTER SCHOOL.

REI!?
YOU WERE WORRIED ABOUT ME.
I...
...HEARD ABOUT YOUR MOM FROM HARUMI.
THIS WAY.
THIS IS MY HOUSE.
COME ON IN.


SO THIS IS WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE IN HERE.
YEAH, I GUESS YOU'VE ONLY BEEN AT THE DOOR BUT NOT INSIDE.
SO...
...HOW'S YOUR MOM DOING?
SHE WAS WORKING TOO HARD.
THEY'RE STILL RUNNING TESTS. I GUESS HER LIVER'S BAD, TOO.

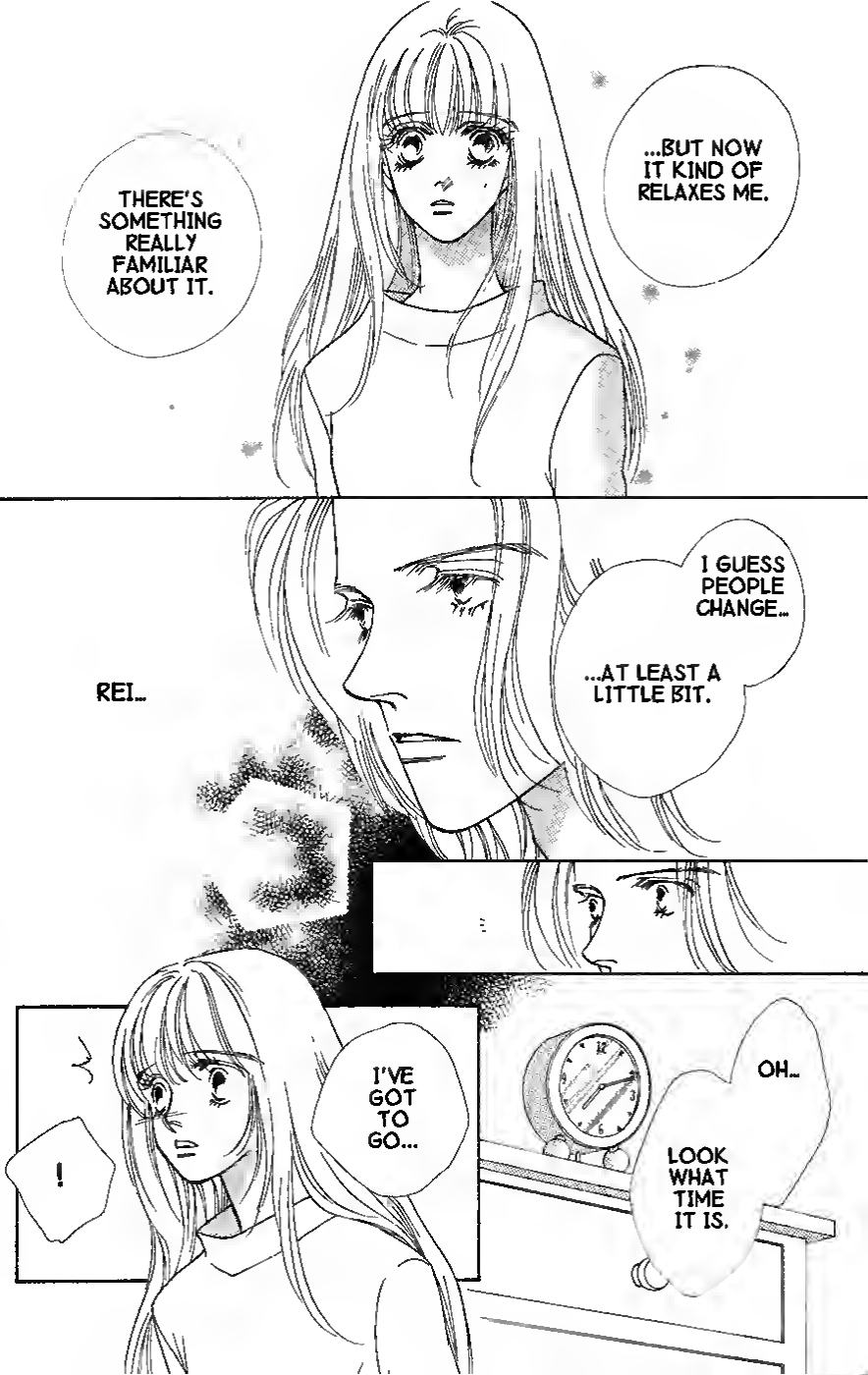
...
SHE'S BEEN PUSHING HERSELF TOO HARD...
...SO I COULD GO TO COLLEGE.
BUT THE DOCTOR SAID SHE'LL BE ALL RIGHT IF SHE TAKES IT EASY.
THERE'S NO WAY I'D BE ANY HELP, COMING OVER HERE LIKE THIS.
I'M AN IDIOT!
DON'T SAY THAT.
I WAS REALLY HAPPY TO SEE YOU.
...I WAS HAPPY.
REALLY...

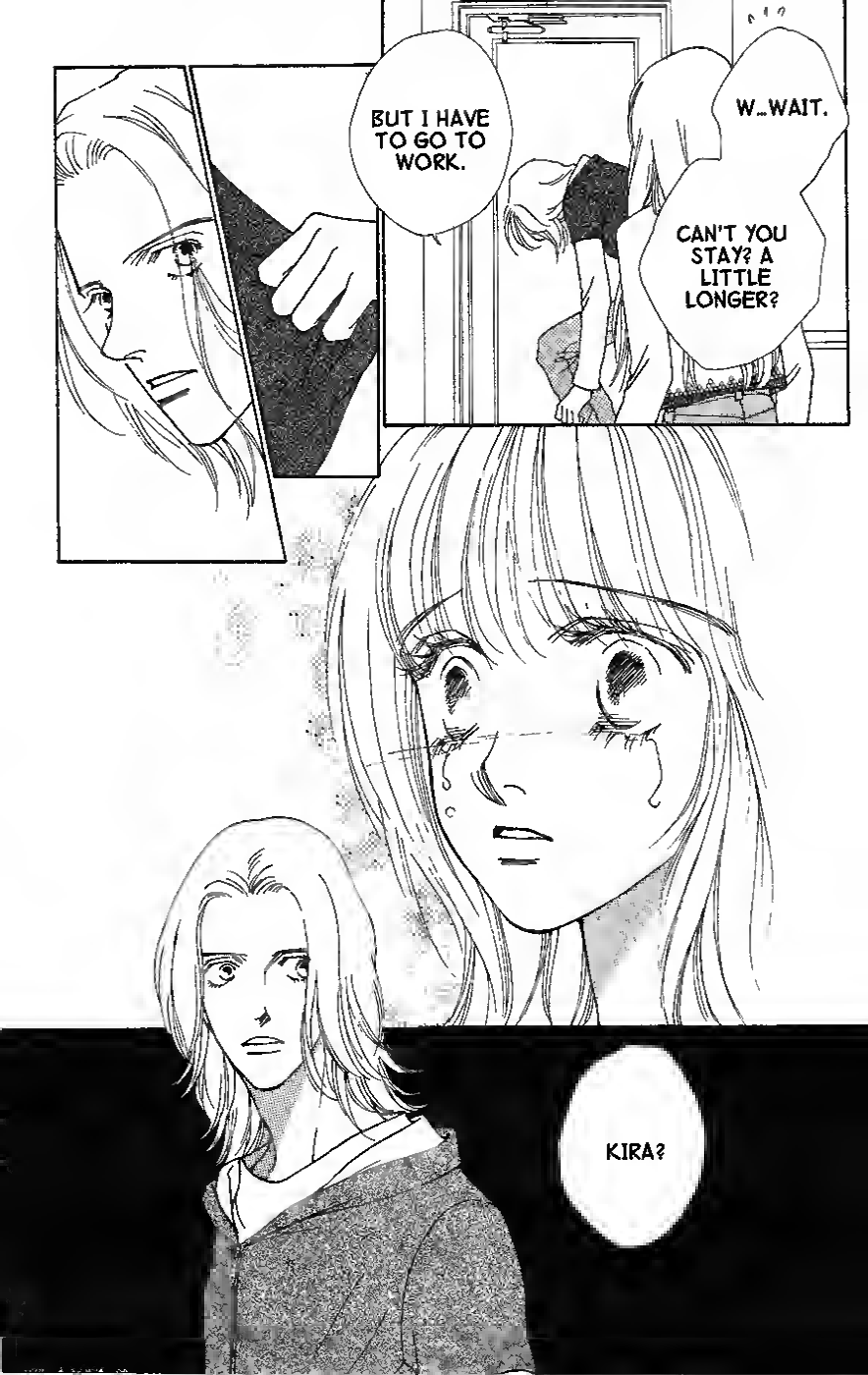

WAIT, REI.
CAN YOU STAY A LITTLE LONGER?
I FEEL BETTER NOW THAT I SEE YOU SMILING.
WELL, I'M GONNA GO.
JUST A LITTLE WHILE...
OKAY?
YOU CAME ALL THIS WAY.
!
I HAVE A FEW PHOTOS OF TATSUYA FROM JUNIOR HIGH.
IF YOU WANT, WE CAN LOOK AT PICTURES IN MY ROOM.
YEAH.
CAN I REALLY GO IN YOUR ROOM?

CLUNK
OW!
ARE YOU OKAY?
YOU WOULDN'T SURVIVE...
...IN AN APARTMENT COMPLEX.
PFFFT

HA HA.
TATSUYA HASN'T CHANGED AT ALL.
HEY, WHERE ARE YOU?
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
TRY TO FIND ME.
HEY!
THAT'S YOU!
RIGHT.
WOW, YOU'RE CUTE!
STOP IT..
DON'T STARE AT IT LIKE THAT!
!
OH NO..
THERE'S PAINT ON THE PICTURE.
I WONDER WHEN THAT HAPPENED?

THIS ROOM SMELLS THE SAME WAY THE ART STUDIO SMELLS.
SEI'S ROOM WAS LIKE THIS, TOO.
THAT'S BECAUSE OF ALL THE ART SUPPLIES AND CANVASES.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
I DIDN'T LIKE THE SMELL OF OIL PAINTS.
I HATED GOING TO THE ART STUDIO.
I WAS GOING JUST TO KEEP MY PROMISE....

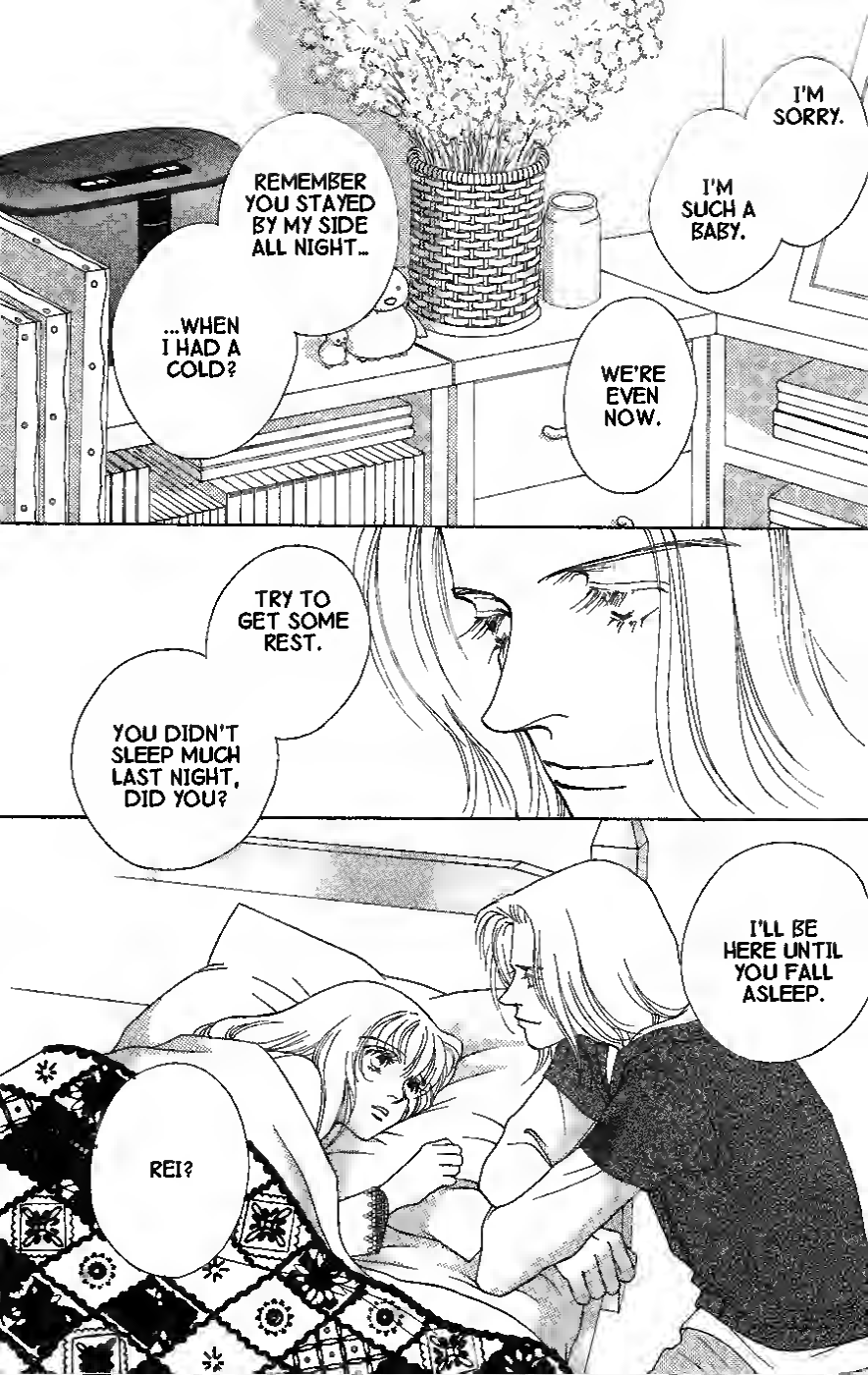

THERE'S SOMETHING REALLY FAMILIAR ABOUT IT.
...BUT NOW IT KIND OF RELAXES ME.
REI...
I GUESS PEOPLE CHANGE...
...AT LEAST A LITTLE BIT.
!
I'VE GOT TO GO...
OH...
LOOK WHAT TIME IT IS.

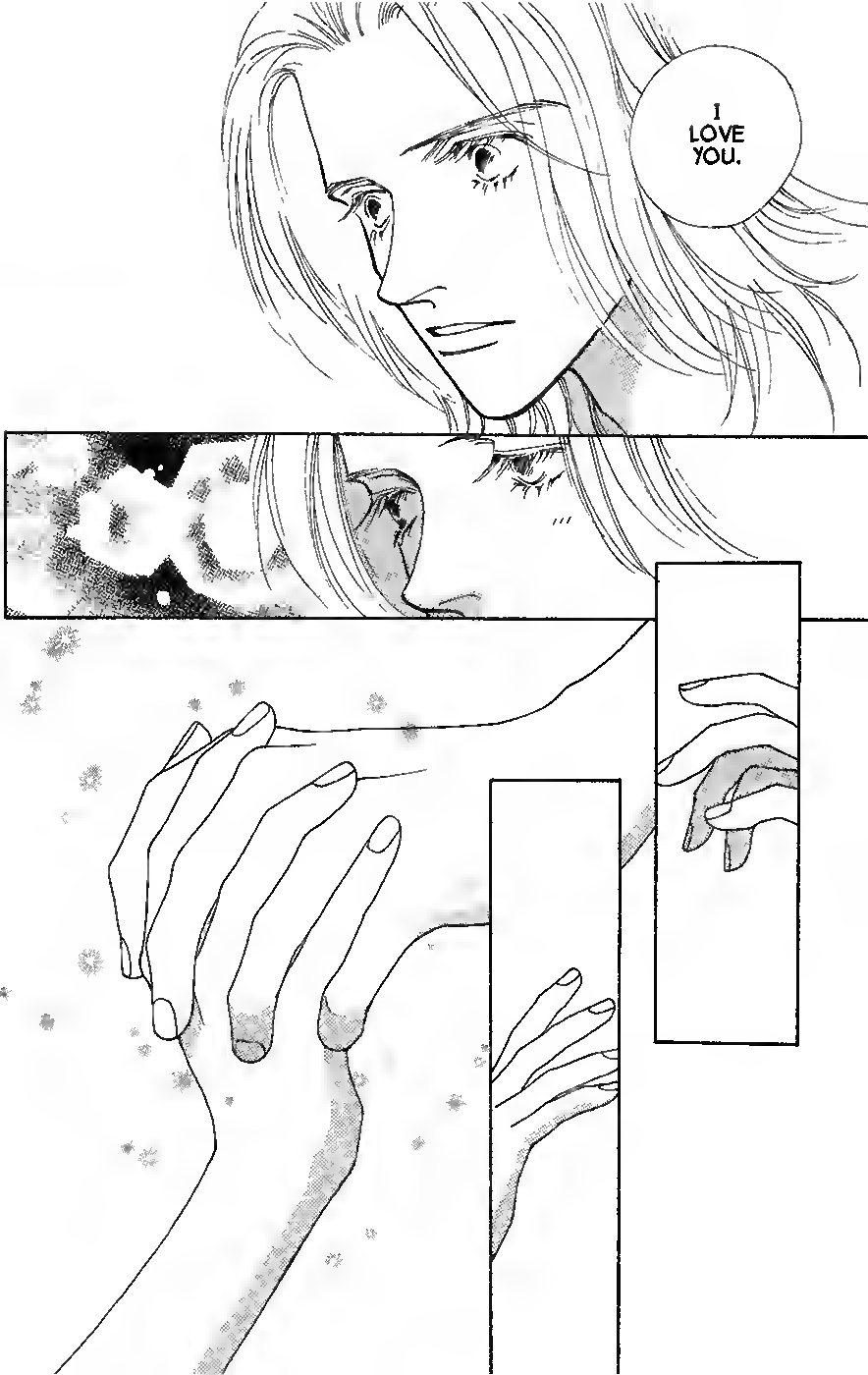

W...WAIT.
CAN'T YOU STAY? A LITTLE LONGER?
BUT I HAVE TO GO TO WORK.
KIRA?

I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE.
I...
I...
I COULDN'T STAND...
...BEING ALONE LAST NIGHT.
I THOUGHT THE HOSPITAL WAS GOING TO CALL AND TELL ME...
...SOMETHING HAPPENED TO MY MOTHER.
I'M SCARED TO BE ALONE.

IT'S OKAY.
SO DON'T CRY.
DON'T SAY YOU'LL BE ALONE.
OKAY?
THERE'S TATSUYA AND HARUMI...
...AND ME.
WE'RE ALL HERE.

UM, A FAMILY FRIEND IS IN THE HOSPITAL ...
AND I'D LIKE TO TAKE THE NIGHT OFF IF POSSIBLE.
CREAK
YES...I'M SORRY IT'S SUCH SHORT NOTICE.
I TOOK THE NIGHT OFF.
SO NOW YOU WON'T BE ALONE TONIGHT.

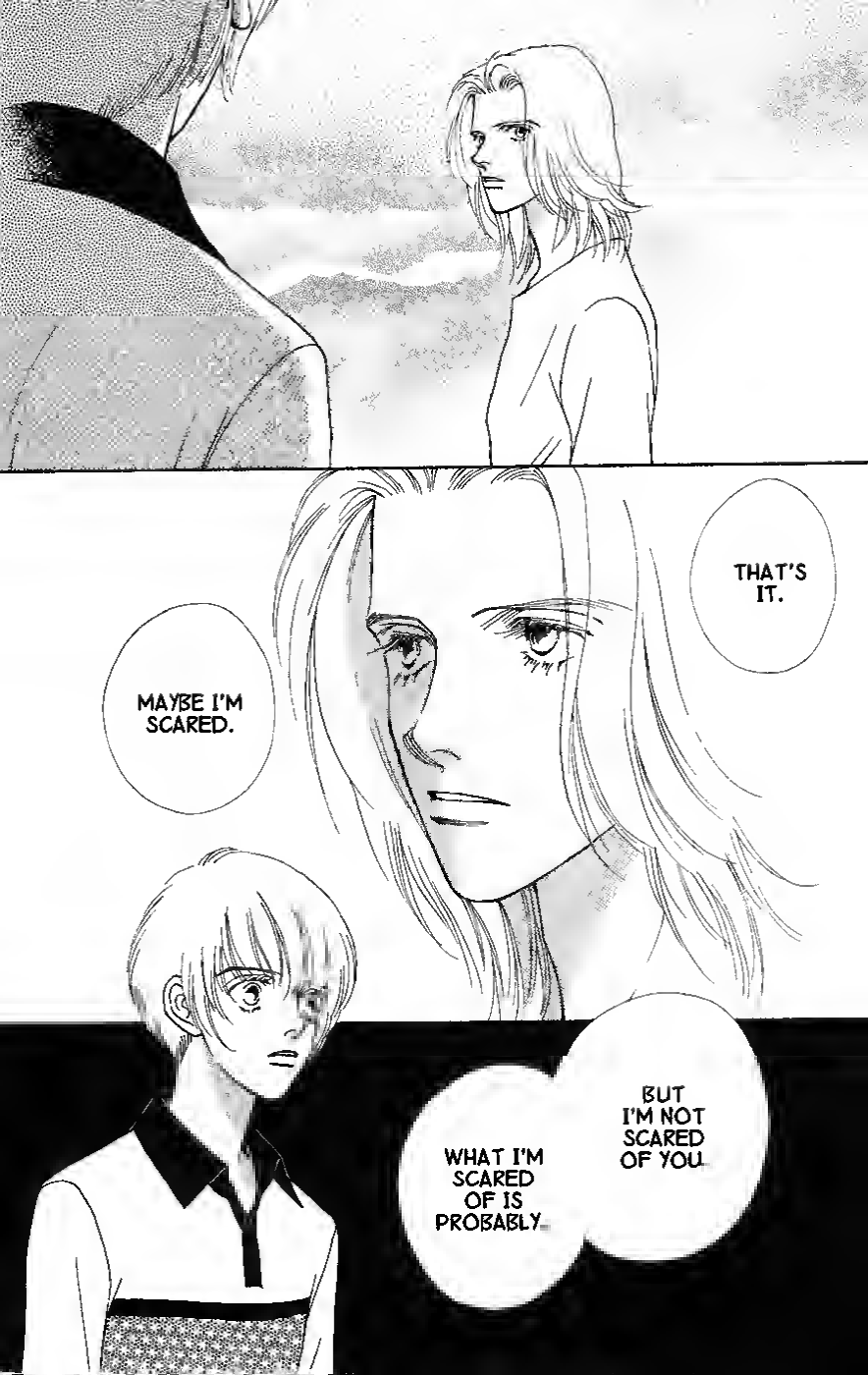

I'M SORRY.
I'M SUCH A BABY.
REMEMBER YOU STAYED BY MY SIDE ALL NIGHT...
...WHEN I HAD A COLD?
WE'RE EVEN NOW.
TRY TO GET SOME REST.
YOU DIDN'T SLEEP MUCH LAST NIGHT, DID YOU?
I'LL BE HERE UNTIL YOU FALL ASLEEP.
REI?

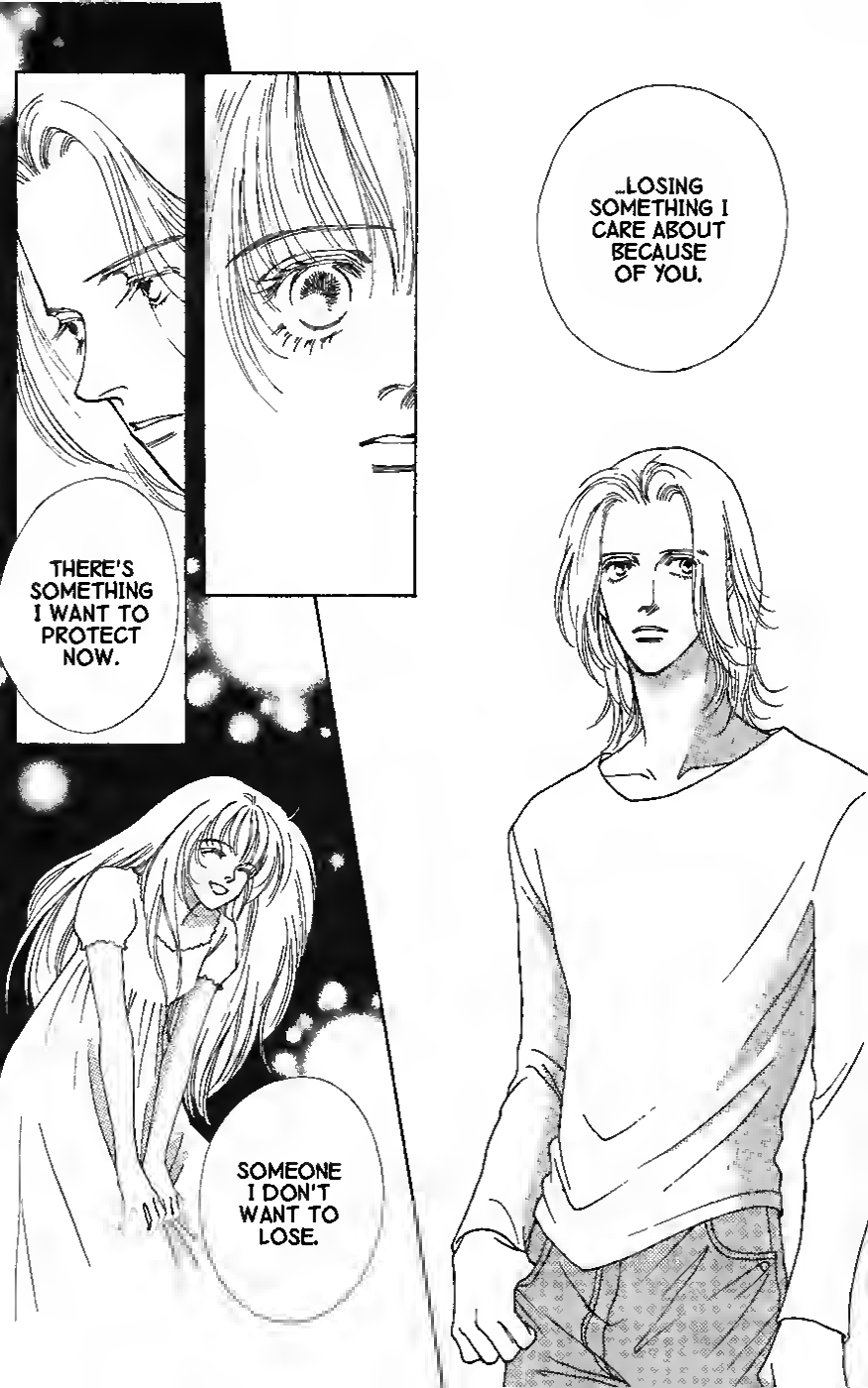

I LOVE YOU.

CLOSE TO SUNRISE,
I THOUGHT I COULD HEAR
THE SOUND OF A MOTORCYCLE...

I THOUGHT HOW HAPPY I'D BE
IF I COULD FORGET EVERYTHING
AND RIDE ANYWHERE WITH HIM.

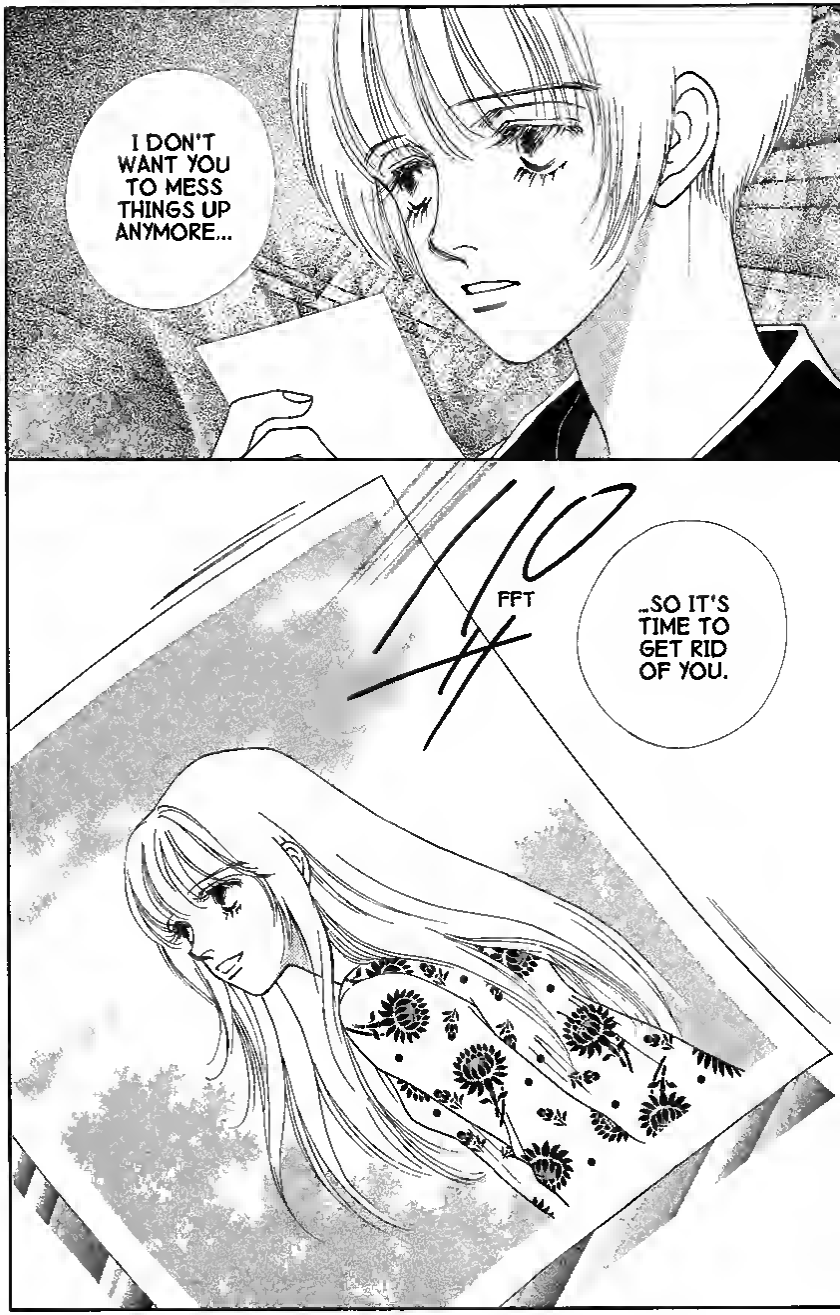
...
HEY.
I HEARD KIRA'S MOTHER'S IN THE HOSPITAL?
DON'T TALK TO ME LIKE WE'RE FRIENDS.
DO YOU HATE ME THAT MUCH?
OR ARE YOU JUST SCARED?


THAT'S IT.
MAYBE I'M SCARED.
BUT I'M NOT SCARED OF YOU.
WHAT I'M SCARED OF IS PROBABLY...


...LOSING SOMETHING I CARE ABOUT BECAUSE OF YOU.
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO PROTECT NOW.
SOMEONE I DON'T WANT TO LOSE.

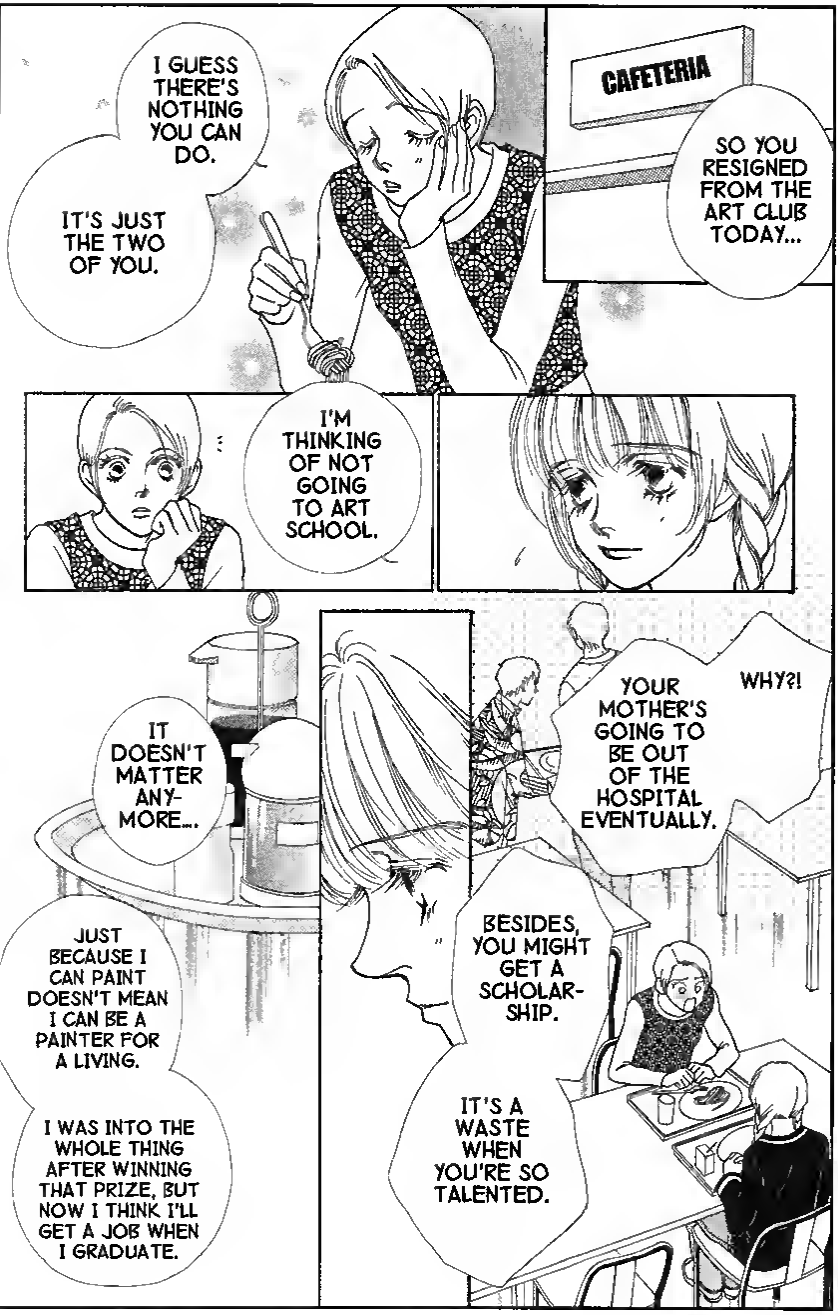
IF THAT'S WEAK-NESS...
THEN GO AHEAD AND CALL IT THAT.
I DON'T CARE IF PEOPLE THINK I'M A STRONG PERSON OR NOT...
...AND I DON'T WANT TO BE ONE.

DAMN YOU..
...FOR BEING AN INFLUENCE ON HIM.
PSHT
SAYING SOMETHING LIKE THAT DOESN'T SOUND LIKE HIM.
HE DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE SOMEONE HE CARES ABOUT.. HUH.


I DON'T WANT YOU TO MESS THINGS UP ANYMORE...
FFT
..SO IT'S TIME TO GET RID OF YOU.

MARS

WHAT?!
YOU WANT TO RESIGN FROM THE ART CLUB?
HMM..
I GUESS IT'S NOT THAT SURPRISING SINCE YOUR MOTHER'S IN THE HOSPITAL FOR SO LONG.
YOU POOR THING, RIGHT BEFORE FINALS.


I GUESS THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
IT'S JUST THE TWO OF YOU.
CAFETERIA
SO YOU RESIGNED FROM THE ART CLUB TODAY...
I'M THINKING OF NOT GOING TO ART SCHOOL.
WHY?!
YOUR MOTHER'S GOING TO BE OUT OF THE HOSPITAL EVENTUALLY.
IT DOESN'T MATTER ANY-MORE...
BESIDES, YOU MIGHT GET A SCHOLAR-SHIP.
JUST BECAUSE I CAN PAINT DOESN'T MEAN I CAN BE A PAINTER FOR A LIVING.
IT'S A WASTE WHEN YOU'RE SO TALENTED.
I WAS INTO THE WHOLE THING AFTER WINNING THAT PRIZE, BUT NOW I THINK I'LL GET A JOB WHEN I GRADUATE.

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?
'PLEASE KEEP PAINTING BEAUTIFUL PICTURES.'
I DON'T WANT TO BE ANY MORE OF A BURDEN ON MY MOTHER...
I DID WHATEVER I WANTED UNTIL NOW, EVEN THOUGH I COULD HAVE BEEN WORKING PART-TIME.
I DIDN'T WANT TO DEAL WITH THE REAL WORLD.
BUT I CAN'T KEEP SAYING THAT.
...

HEY, MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST MARRY REI!
WHA...?
FROM NOW ON, JUST HAVE REI LOOK AFTER EVERYTHING FOR YOU.
REI DOESN'T SEEM TO HAVE A LOT OF PLANNING ABILITY, BUT HE DEFINITELY KNOWS HOW TO GET BY IN LIFE.
HE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOU NO MATTER WHAT.
AND YOU SEEM LIKE...
...YOU'D MAKE A GOOD WIFE.
...
HEY, HARUMI.
C'MERE
TATSUYA!

'SCUSE ME A SEC.
HOW NICE TO HEAR THE IDEAS OF SOMEONE SO AVERAGE AND MEDIOCRE.
SO CARE-FREE AND HAPPY...
I'M A LITTLE ENVIOUS.

WAIT, MASAO.
YOU SAID BEFORE...
THAT I WAS MISTAKEN ABOUT REI.
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S MISTAKEN.
IT'S TRUE THAT REI HAS A VIOLENT SIDE.
BUT...
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL.
HE HAS A LOT OF WARMTH AND KINDNESS, TOO...
...A LOT OF IT.

YOU'RE NOT SEEING THAT AT ALL.
YOU'RE NOT EVEN TRYING TO SEE.
WHY?
YOU LIKE REI, DON'T YOU?
SO WHY DON'T YOU TRY TO SEE THOSE PARTS OF HIM?
BECAUSE I'M NOT INTERESTED IN THAT.

I DON'T WANT TO SEE A SWEET, PEACEFUL REI KASHINO.

THUK
SUMITOMO
HEY.

PSSHHT
YEAH, I'M SORRY ABOUT THAT.
DON'T HANG AROUND SO MUCH.
IT'S JUST THAT I CAN'T HELP BUT BE CONCERNED -
...WITH THE WELFARE OF THE KIDS INVOLVED IN MY CASES.
HOW'S THAT MAKE ME LOOK, HAVING A COP FOLLOW ME AROUND?
TIME FLIES.
IT'S THREE YEARS SINCE SEI DIED...
WAS THE GIRL WITH YOU LAST TIME YOUR GIRLFRIEND?
SHE WAS PRETTY CUTE.
HOW LONG DO YOU PLAN ON LEAVING HIM FREE?
HUH ?!

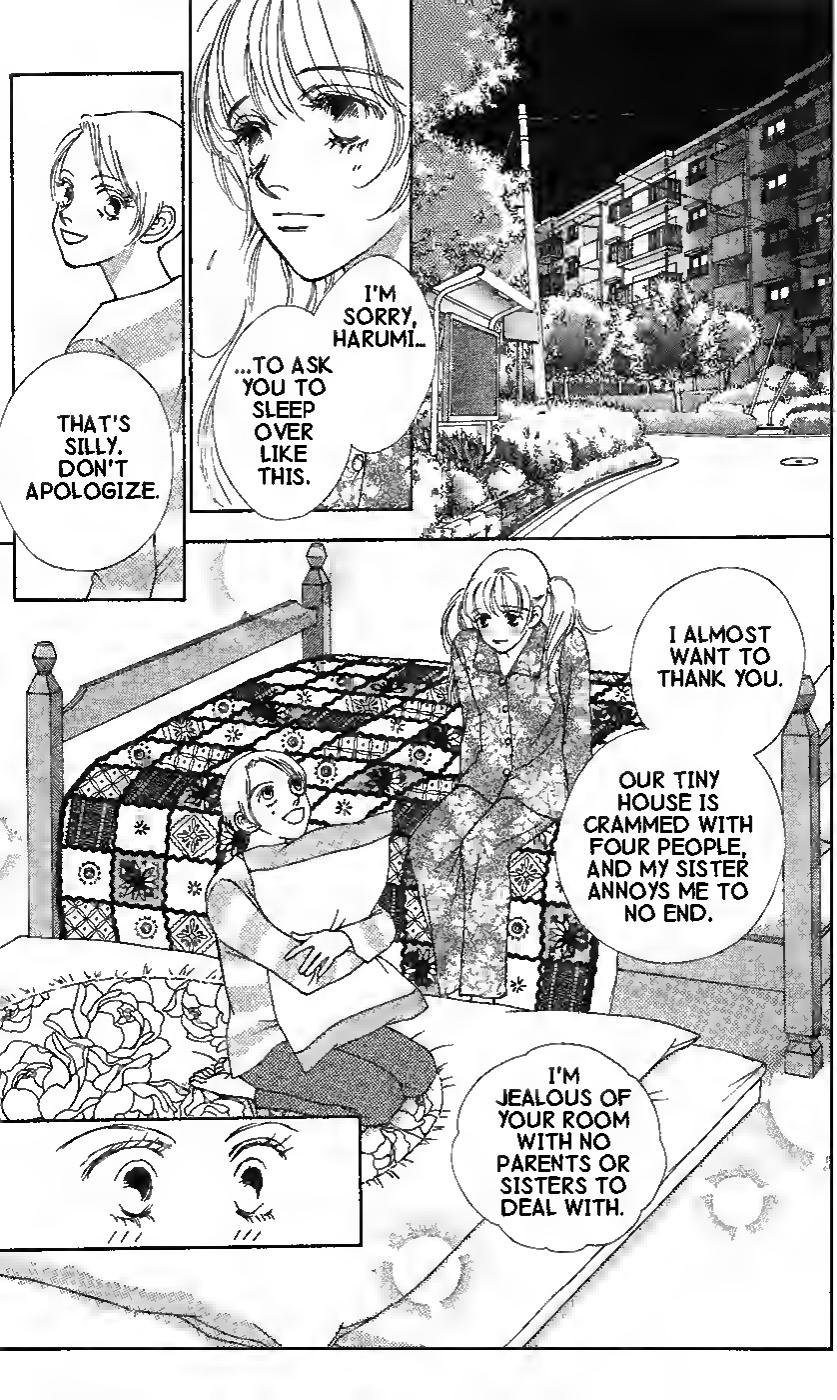
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
NO, NOTHING YET.
BUT HE'S DEFINITELY GOING TO DO SOMETHING SOON.
MASAO KIRISHIMA. THE FACT IS...
HE'S SERIOUS TROUBLE.
HE CARE-FULLY PLANNED YUJI AOKI'S MURDER.
DID KIRISHIMA SAY THAT HIMSELF?
YEAH... WITH PLEASURE.
HE'S TOTALLY SCREWED UP.

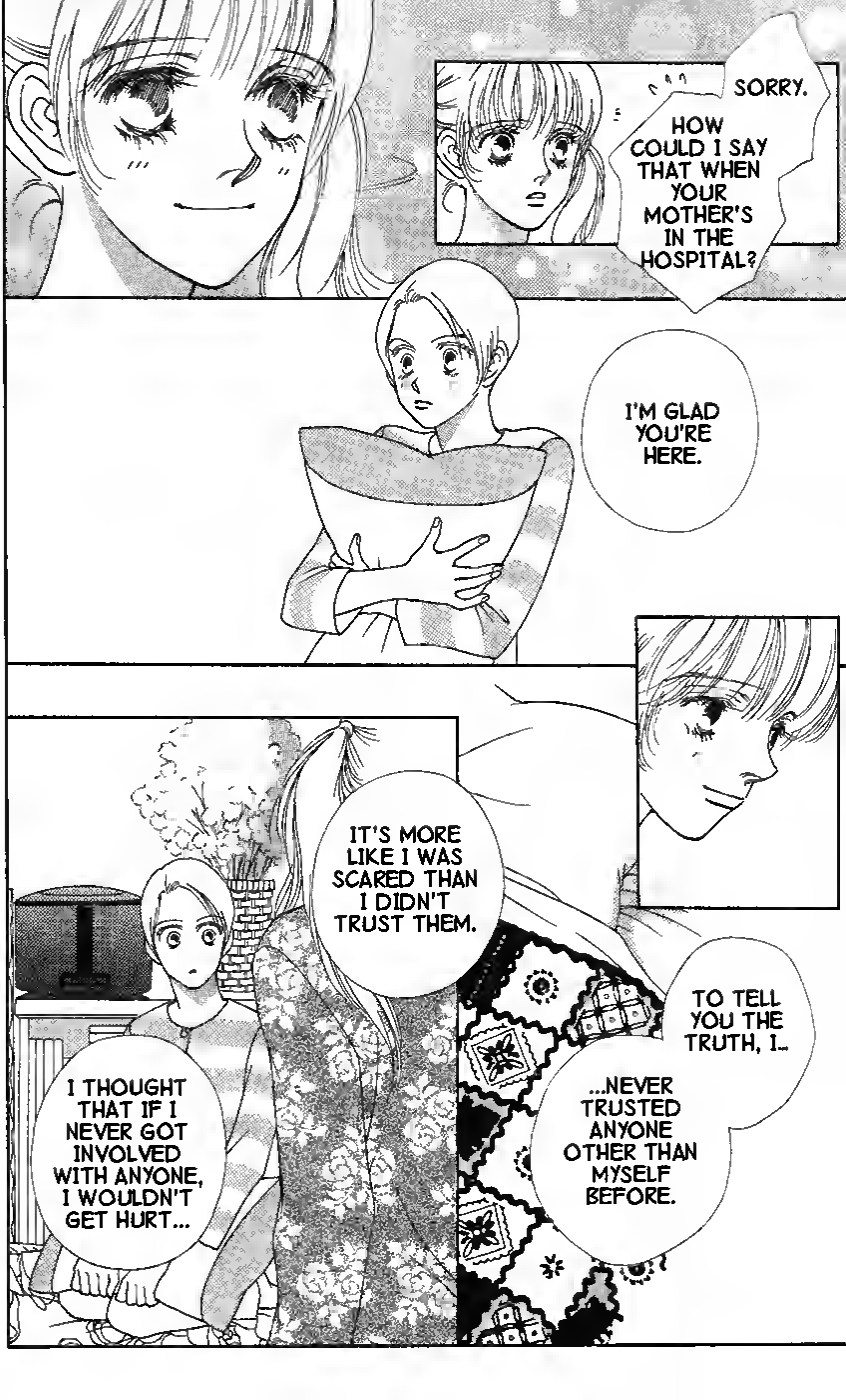
KILLING PEOPLE IS BAD.
IT'S THE WORST ACT A HUMAN CAN COMMIT.
BUT THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WHO'LL KILL SOMEONE FOR TEN BUCKS.
CRUNCH
BUT I GUESS...
...THE COPS DON'T COME OUT 'TIL SOMEONE'S KILLED.
KRUNK
...THAT'S TOUGH.
WELL, WE DO CALL OURSELVES UPHOLDERS OF JUSTICE...
...BUT THE LAW SAYS WE STILL HAVE TO PLAY BY THE RULES.
WHAT GOOD IS THE LAW?
'YOU HAVE TO USE THE LAW TO YOUR ADVANTAGE.'

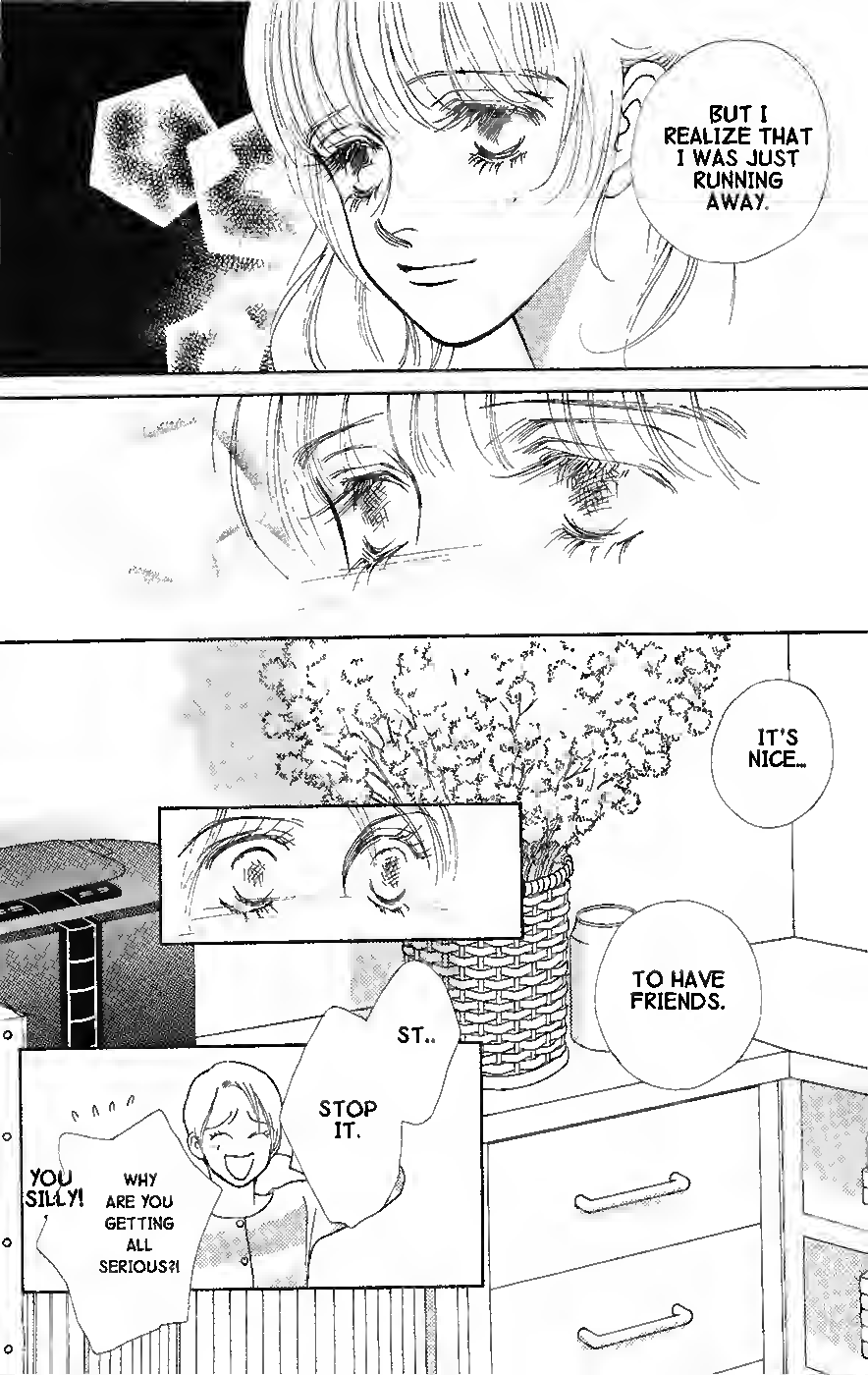
THE LAW SAYS THE GUY WHO KILLED SOMEONE FOR TEN BUCKS HAS A RIGHT TO GO ON LIVING...
THE SAME WAY THE GUY WHO GOT KILLED FOR TEN BUCKS HAS A RIGHT TO LIVE.
MASAO PISSES ME OFF...
...BUT IN A WAY, HE AMAZES ME.
REGARDLESS OF HOW HE WENT ABOUT IT, HE PROTECTED HIS RIGHTS WITH HIS OWN STRENGTH.
EVEN THOUGH THAT'S PROBABLY NOT SUCH A GOOD THING...

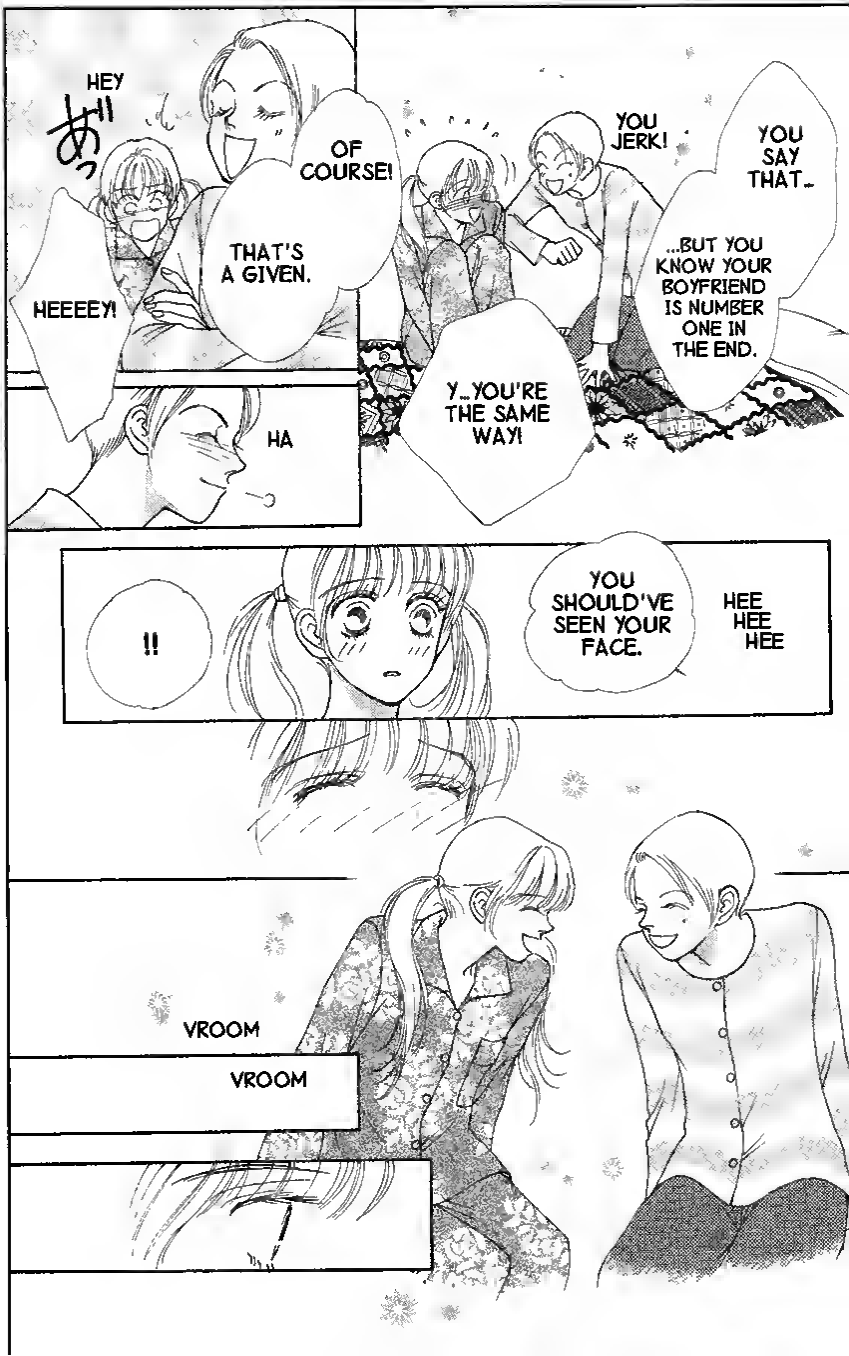
EVERYONE JUST SAYS SOMETHING'S RIGHT OR WRONG BECAUSE THAT'S THE LAW.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S RIGHT OR WRONG.
NO ONE EVER TAUGHT ME
MAYBE NOBODY KNOWS THE REASONS FOR THE LAW...
...AND MAYBE THERE'S NO REAL ANSWER.
BUT...
THERE'S SOMETHING I FIGURED OUT RECENTLY.
JUST THINKING ABOUT IT MAKES MY HEAD HURT.

IT'S NICE TO HAVE SOMETHING TO PROTECT.
I USED TO BELIEVE PEOPLE ARE STRONGER WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE ANYTHING.
I REALLY BELIEVED THAT.
BUT ISN'T IT BETTER TO BE A PERSON WITH AT LEAST ONE THING TO PROTECT?


I'M SORRY, HARUMI...
...TO ASK YOU TO SLEEP OVER LIKE THIS.
THAT'S SILLY. DON'T APOLOGIZE.
I ALMOST WANT TO THANK YOU.
OUR TINY HOUSE IS CRAMMED WITH FOUR PEOPLE, AND MY SISTER ANNOYS ME TO NO END.
I'M JEALOUS OF YOUR ROOM WITH NO PARENTS OR SISTERS TO DEAL WITH.

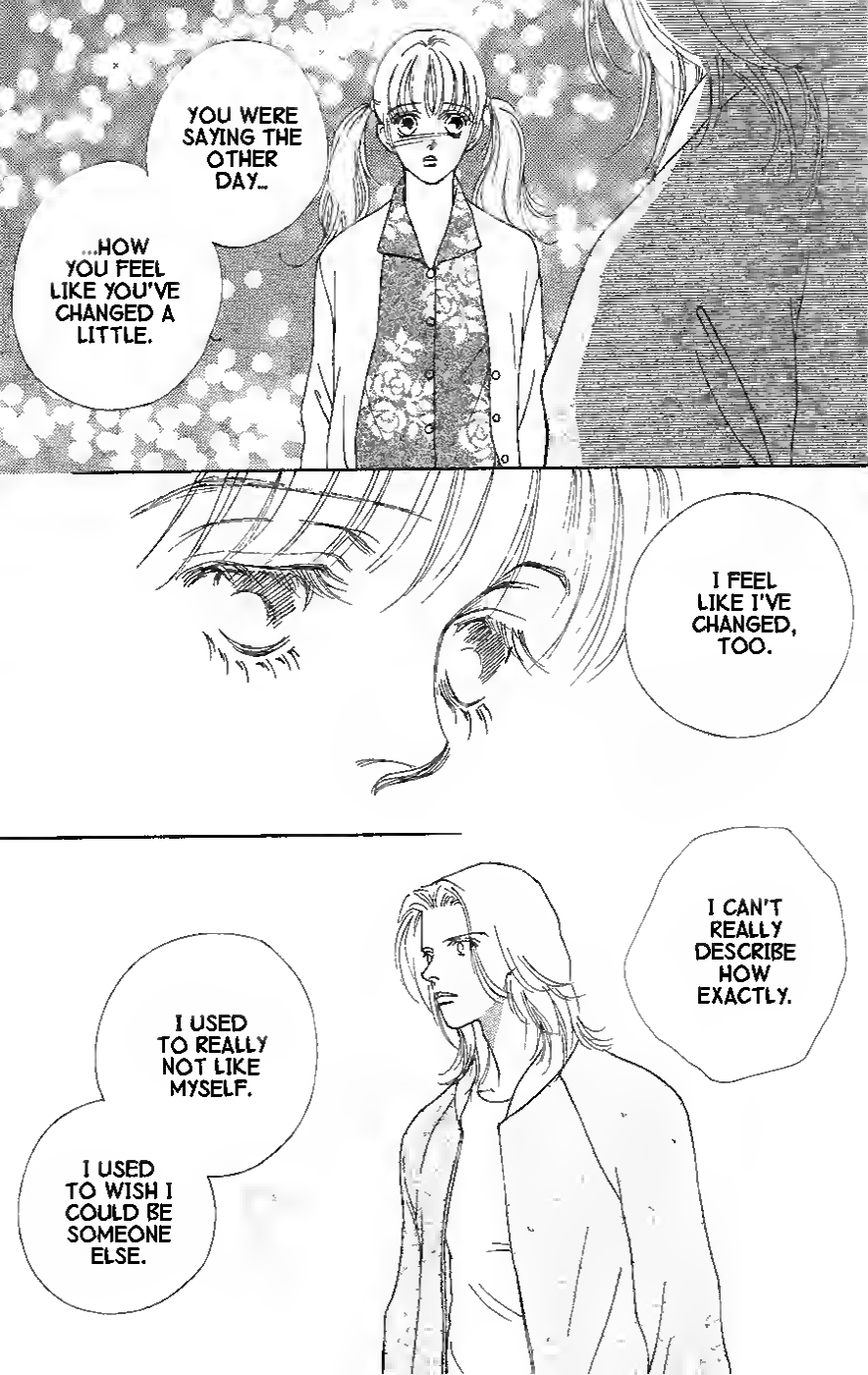

SORRY.
HOW COULD I SAY THAT WHEN YOUR MOTHER'S IN THE HOSPITAL?
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
IT'S MORE LIKE I WAS SCARED THAN I DIDN'T TRUST THEM.
I THOUGHT THAT IF I NEVER GOT INVOLVED WITH ANYONE, I WOULDN'T GET HURT...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I...
...NEVER TRUSTED ANYONE OTHER THAN MYSELF BEFORE.


BUT I REALIZE THAT I WAS JUST RUNNING AWAY.
IT'S NICE...
TO HAVE FRIENDS.
ST..
STOP IT.
YOU SILLY!
WHY ARE YOU GETTING ALL SERIOUS?!


HEY
あっ
HEEEEY!
OF COURSE!
THAT'S A GIVEN.
HA
YOU JERK!
Y...YOU'RE THE SAME WAY!
YOU SAY THAT...
...BUT YOU KNOW YOUR BOYFRIEND IS NUMBER ONE IN THE END.
!!
YOU SHOULD'VE SEEN YOUR FACE.
HEE HEE HEE
VROOM
VROOM

THE SOUND OF A BIKE...
HUH!?
IT'S REI.
HEY, KIRA!?
TRAMPLE
TRAMPLE
TRAMPLE

OH, HARUMI CAME OVER, HUH?
THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS ARE FOR, RIGHT?
YEAH!
SHE SAID SHE WOULD COME OVER NOW AND THEN..
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY SO MUCH.
HEY, REI.
OKAY.
I GUESS I'LL GO THEN.

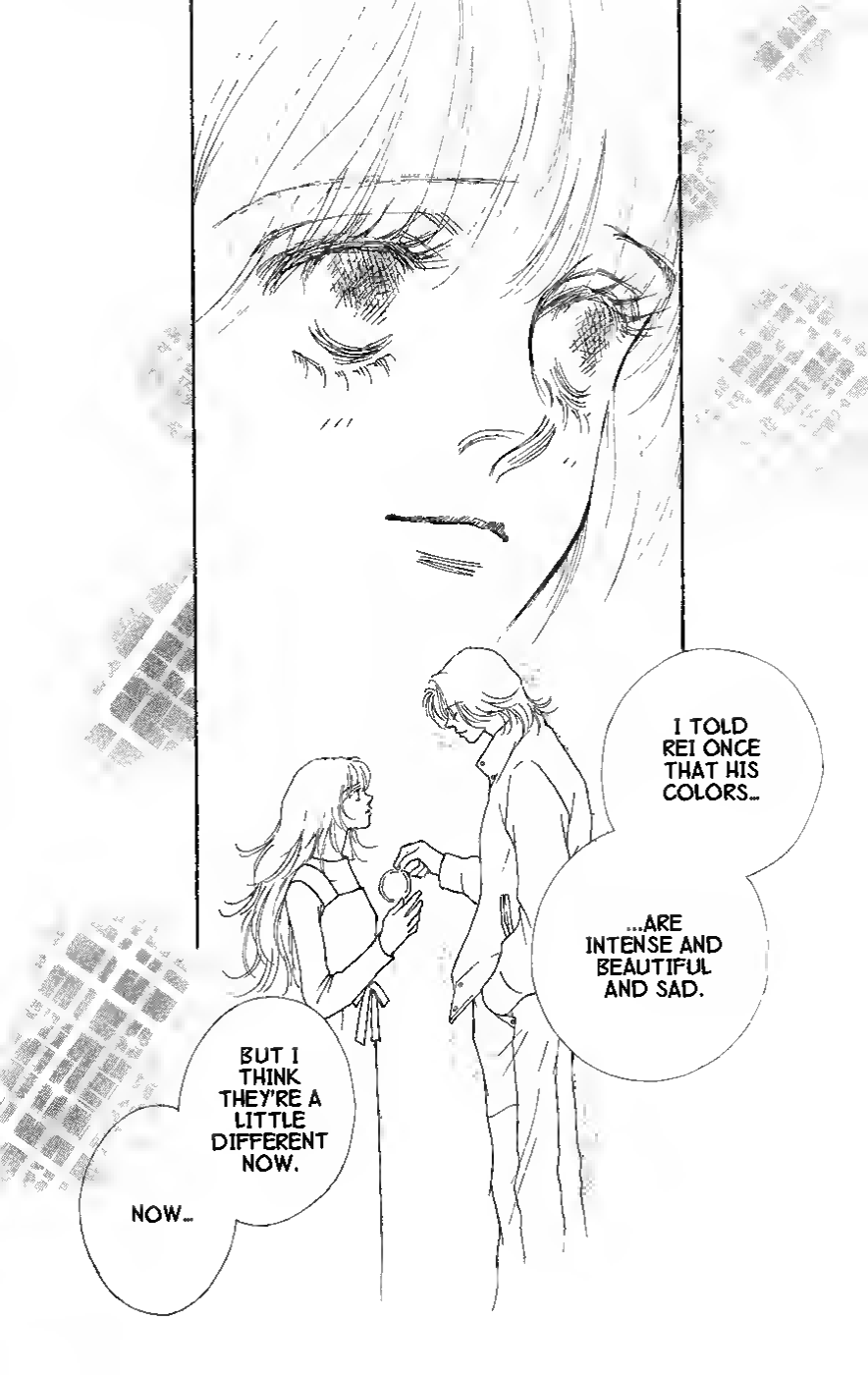

YOU WERE SAYING THE OTHER DAY...
...HOW YOU FEEL LIKE YOU'VE CHANGED A LITTLE.
I FEEL LIKE I'VE CHANGED, TOO.
I CAN'T REALLY DESCRIBE HOW EXACTLY.
I USED TO REALLY NOT LIKE MYSELF.
I USED TO WISH I COULD BE SOMEONE ELSE.

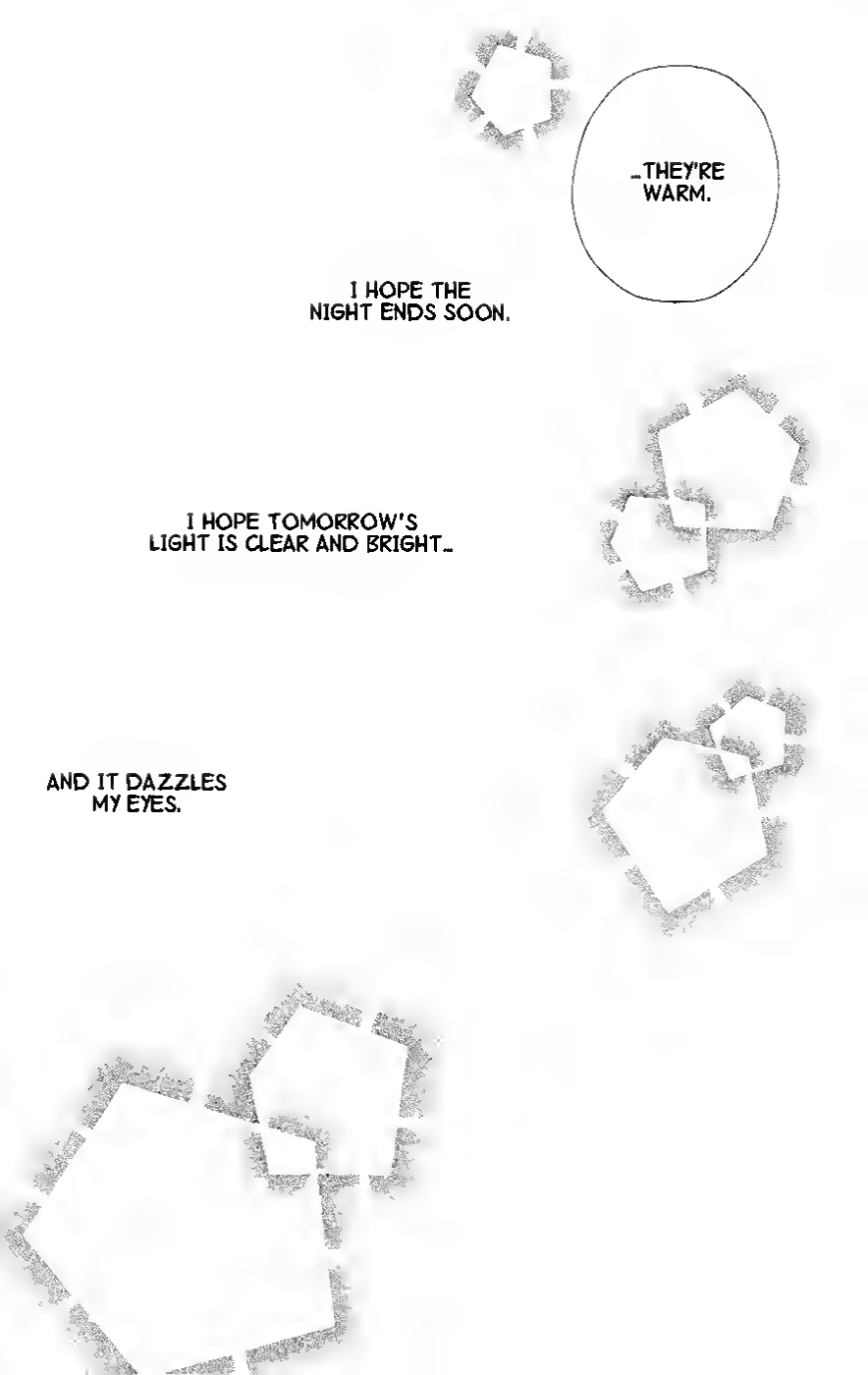
BUT NOW I LIKE MYSELF.
IT'S WEIRD TO SAY IT OUT LOUD...
...BUT IT'S BECAUSE I MET YOU THAT I CAN DO EVEN THAT.
PEOPLE KEEP CHANGING AS LONG AS THEY LIVE.
I USED TO BE SCARED OF THE FUTURE, BUT NOW I CAN'T WAIT...
...FOR THE FUTURE.

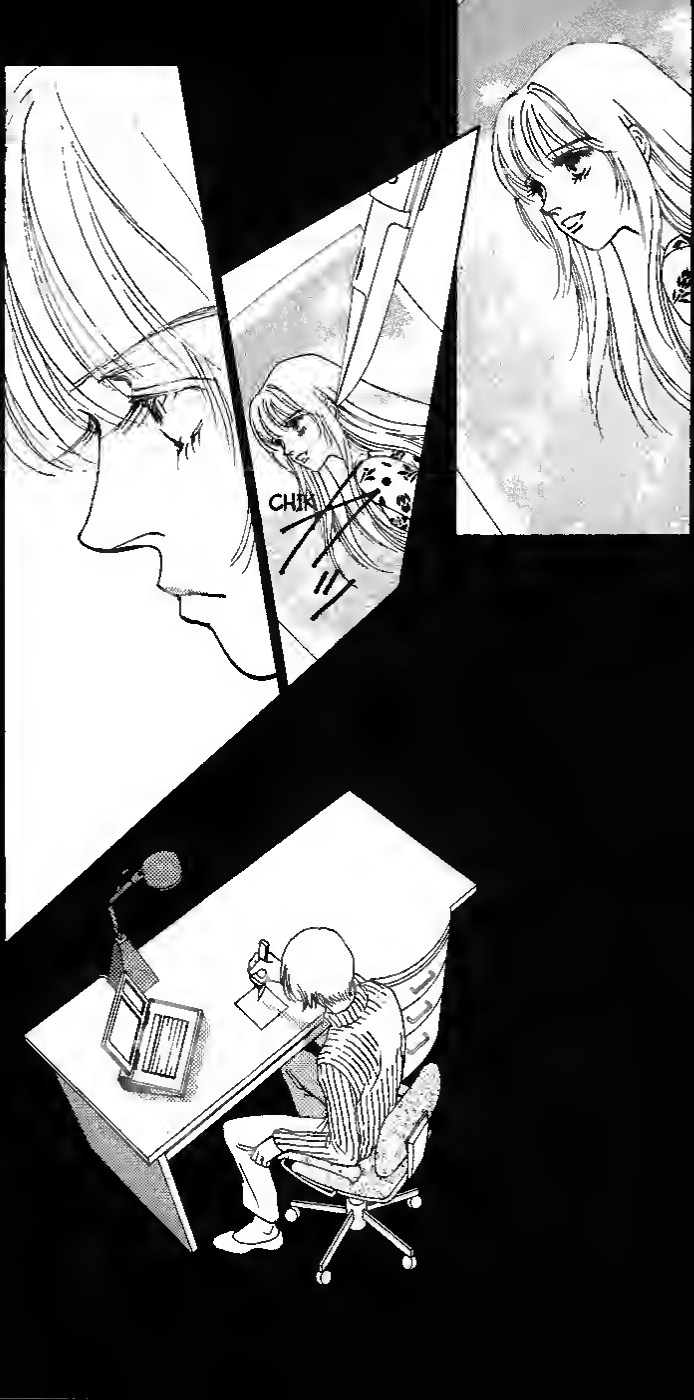
SEE YOU TOMORROW.

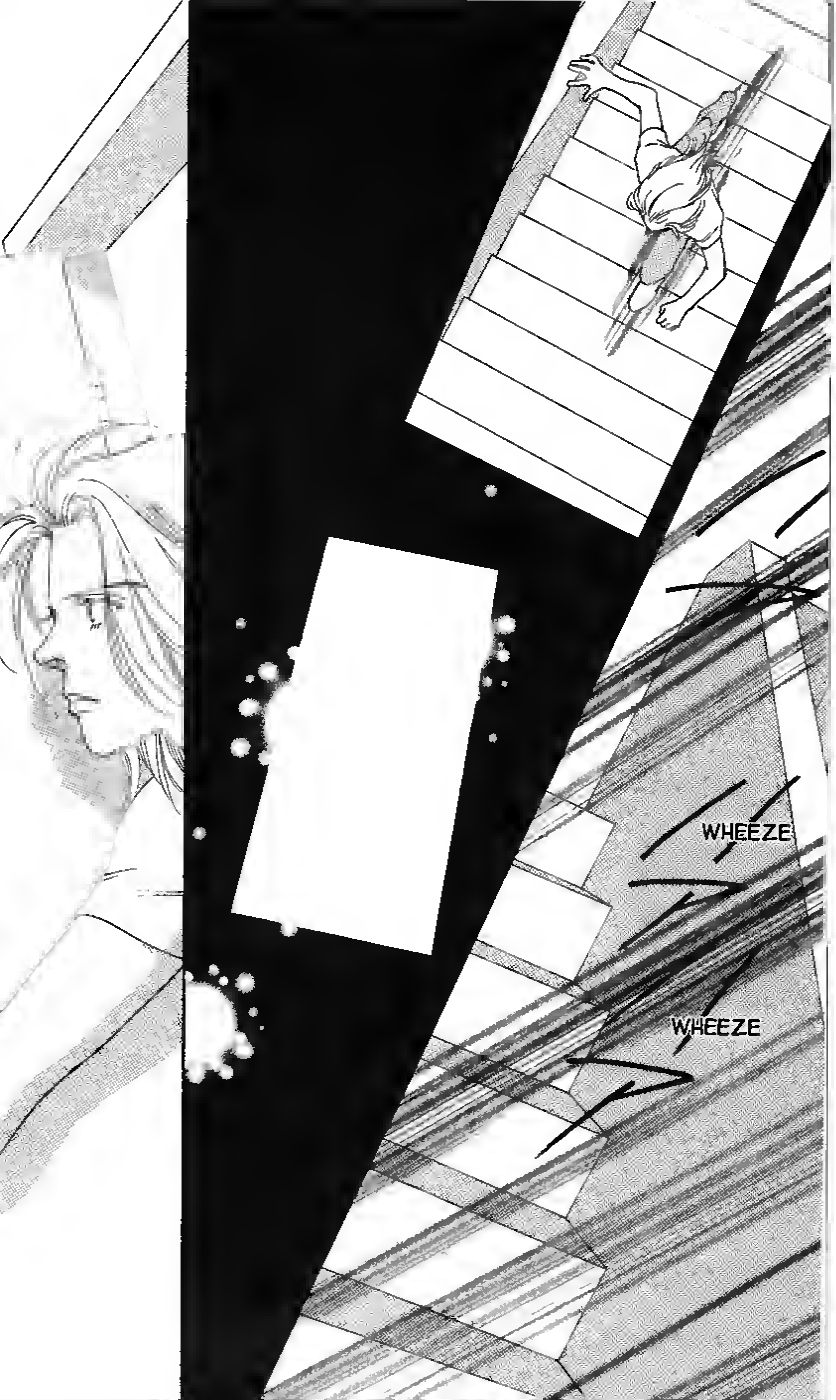
HE CAME ALL THIS WAY AND ALL HE DID WAS SHOW HIS FACE?
WHAT!? REI WENT HOME?
HE'S BEING CONSIDERATE.
!
HE DIDN'T WANT THE NEIGHBORS TO TALK ABOUT A BOY GOING IN AND OUT OF THE APARTMENT...
...WHEN MY MOTHER'S IN THE HOSPITAL.
BUT IT DOESN'T BOTHER ME.

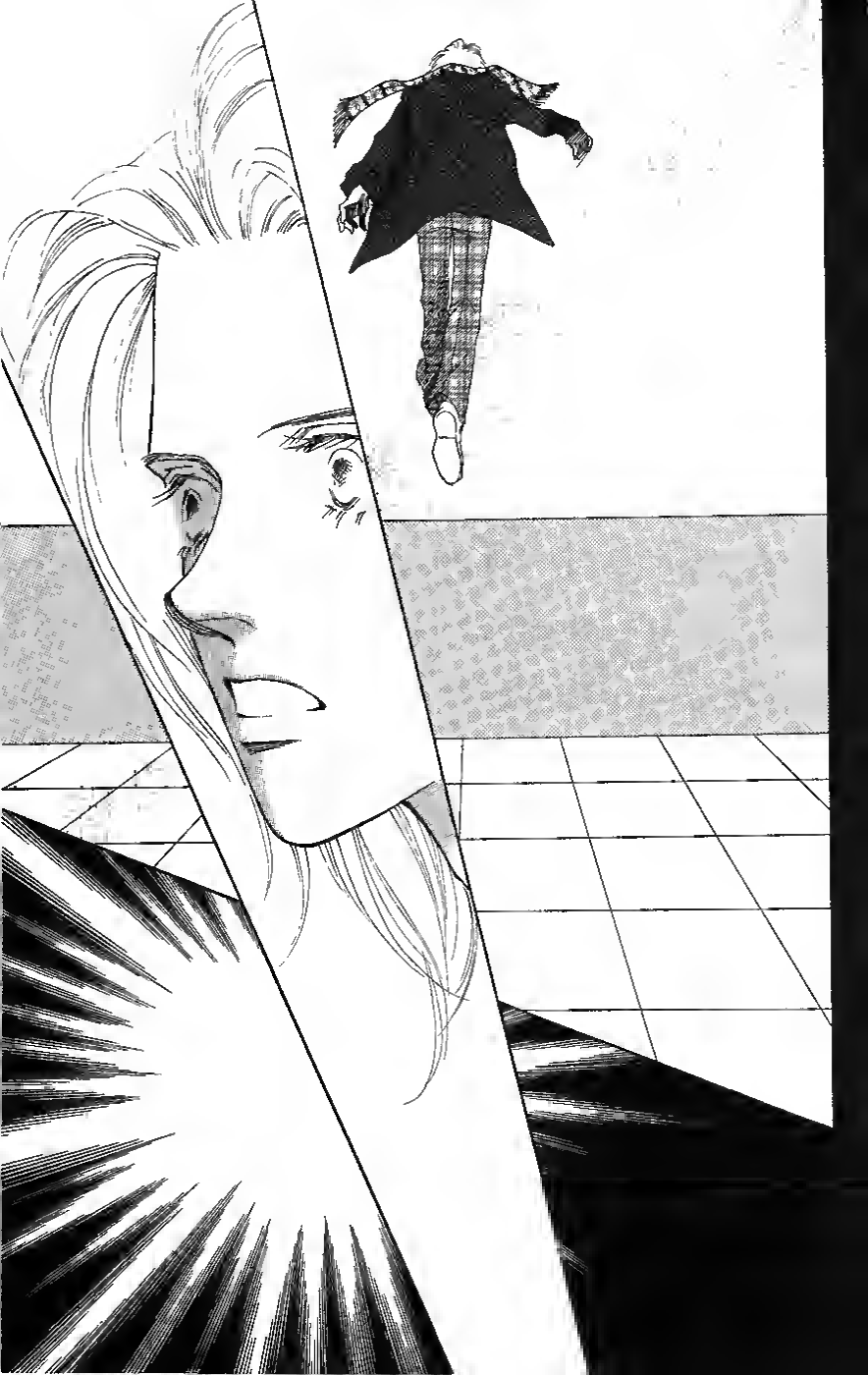
OH...
WOW.
SO REI'S PRETTY PROPER.
I USED TO THINK HE WAS JUST A CAREFREE AND SPONTANEOUS GUY...
BUT HE'S PRETTY TOGETHER.
...HE'S SO NICE.
OH.
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU...
!

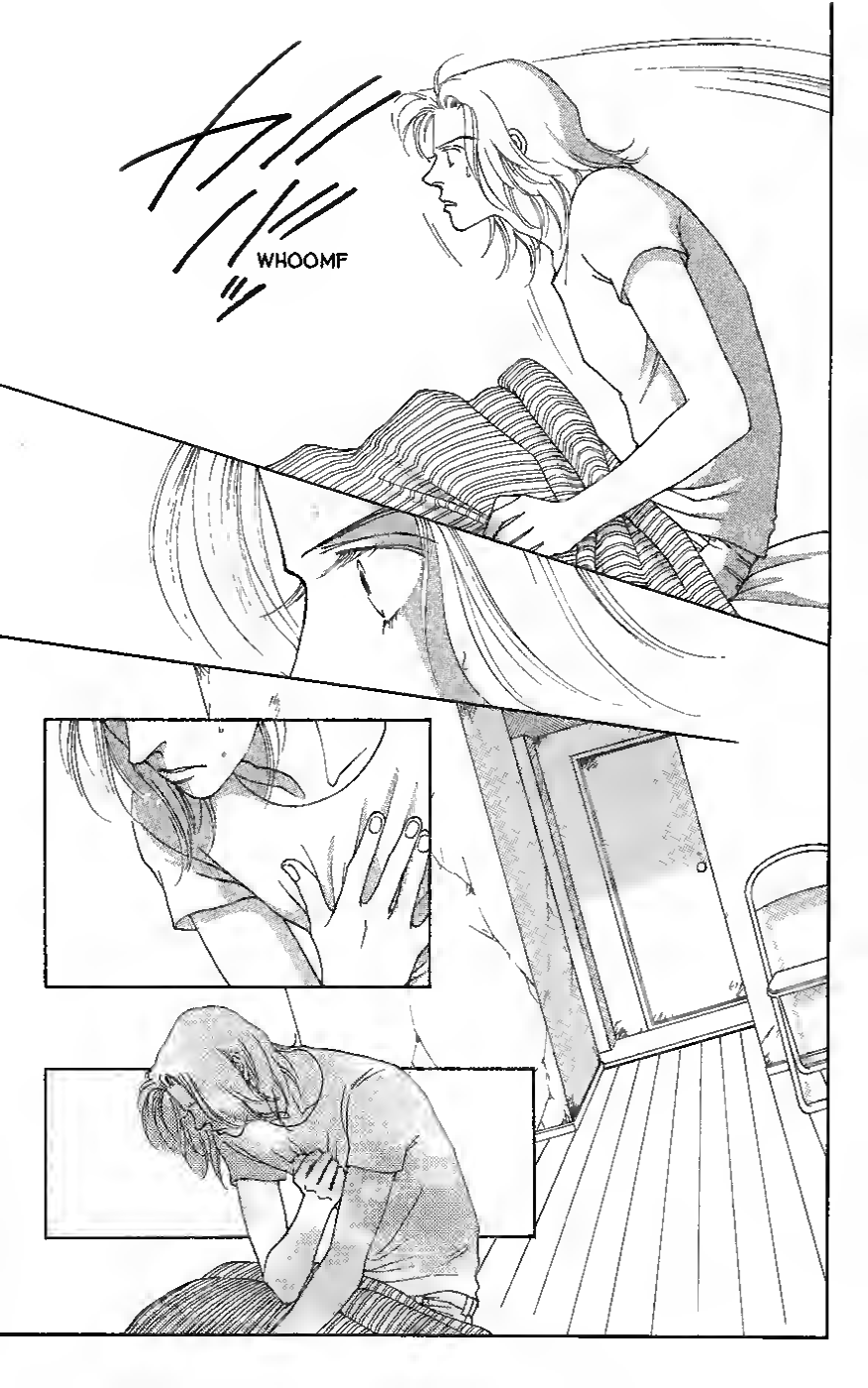

I TOLD REI ONCE THAT HIS COLORS...
...ARE INTENSE AND BEAUTIFUL AND SAD.
BUT I THINK THEY'RE A LITTLE DIFFERENT NOW.
NOW...

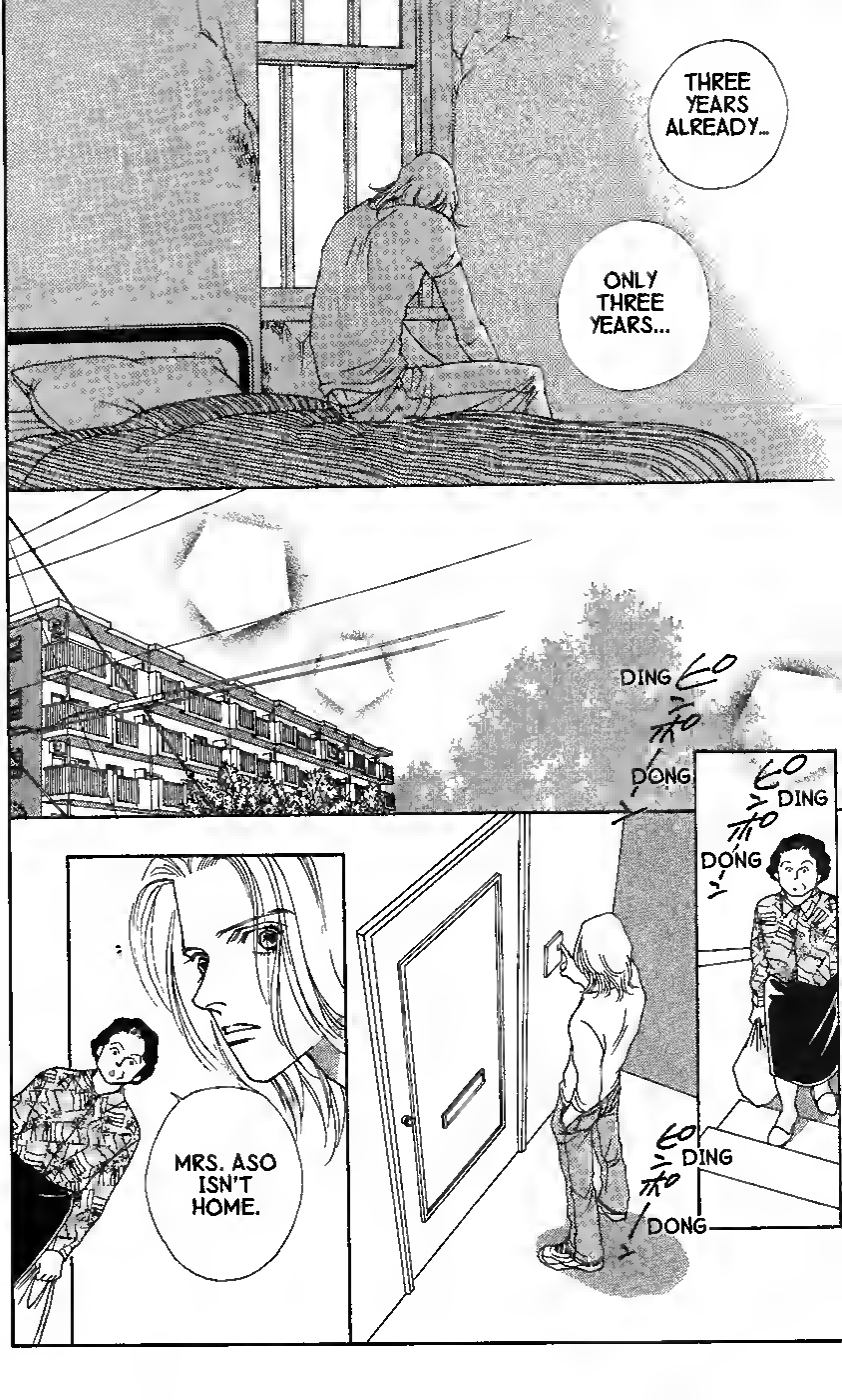

...THEY'RE WARM.
I HOPE THE NIGHT ENDS SOON.
I HOPE TOMORROW'S LIGHT IS CLEAR AND BRIGHT...
AND IT DAZZLES MY EYES.


CHIK


WHEEZE
WHEEZE

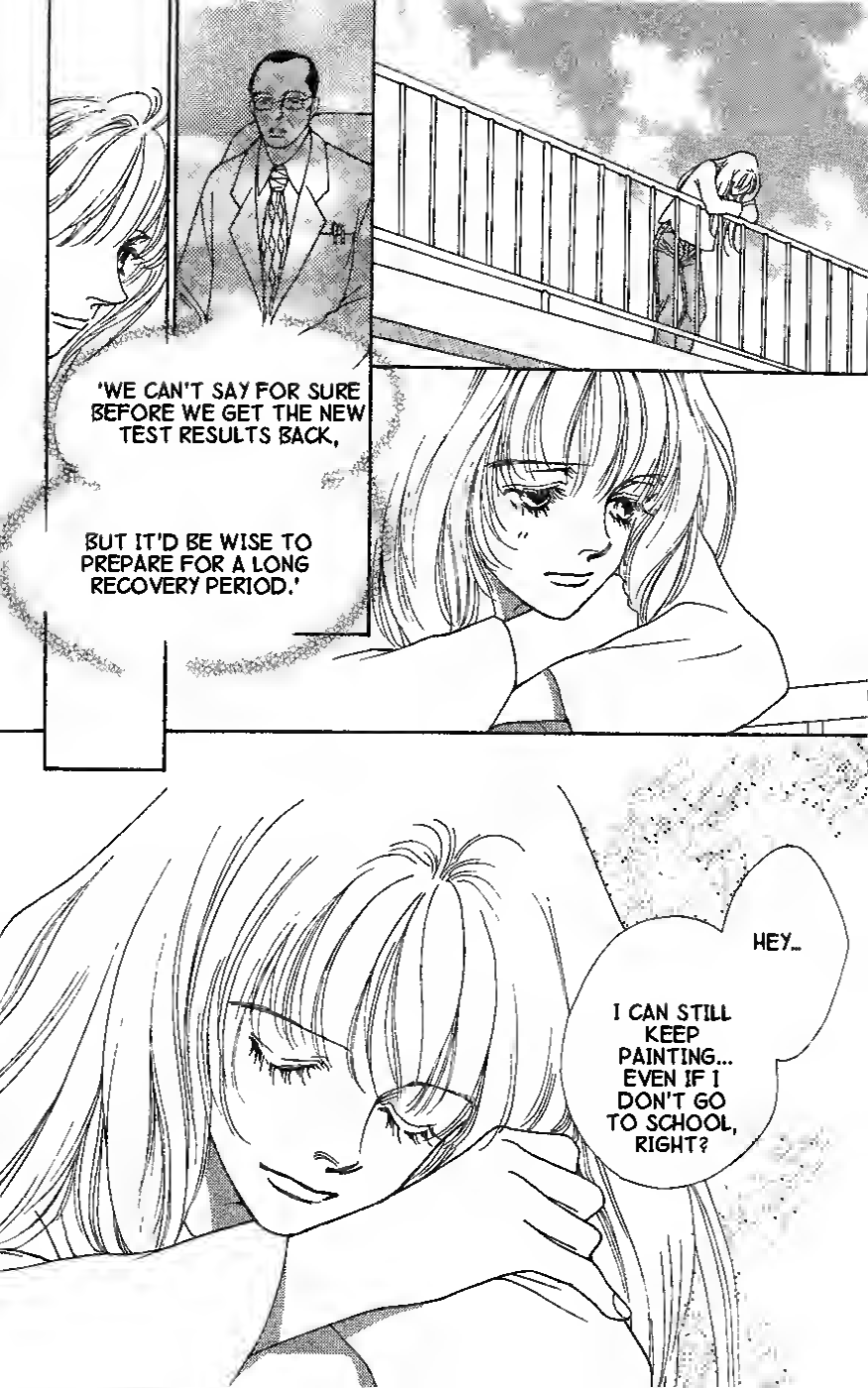



WHOOMF


THREE YEARS ALREADY...
ONLY THREE YEARS...
DING
DONG
DING
DONG
DING
DONG
MRS. ASO ISN'T HOME.

KIRA'S AT THE HOSPITAL.
SHE SAID SOMETHING ABOUT MORE TESTING.
YES.
SHE COLLAPSED LAST WEEK.
ARE YOU ONE OF KIRA'S FRIENDS?
OH...
...AND THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE WHO CAME BY EARLIER.
HARUMI ...
WAS IT A GIRL WITH VERY SHORT HAIR?
YES, YES...
A VERY CUTE GIRL WITH SHORT HAIR.
AND SHE WAS WEARING A BANDAGE... WHICH HAND WAS IT?

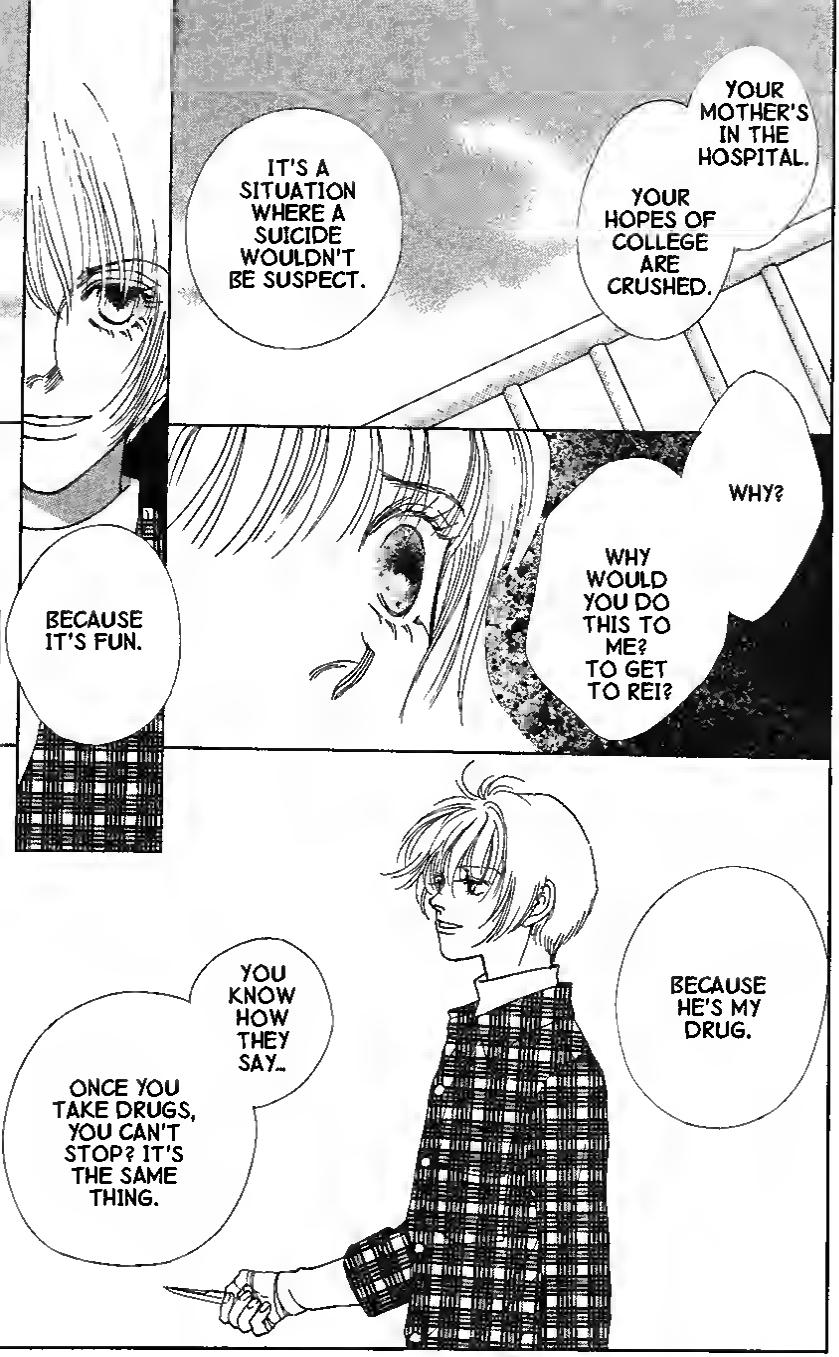
WHERE'S THE HOSPITAL?
WHICH HOSPITAL IS KIRA'S MOTHER IN?
MASAO...

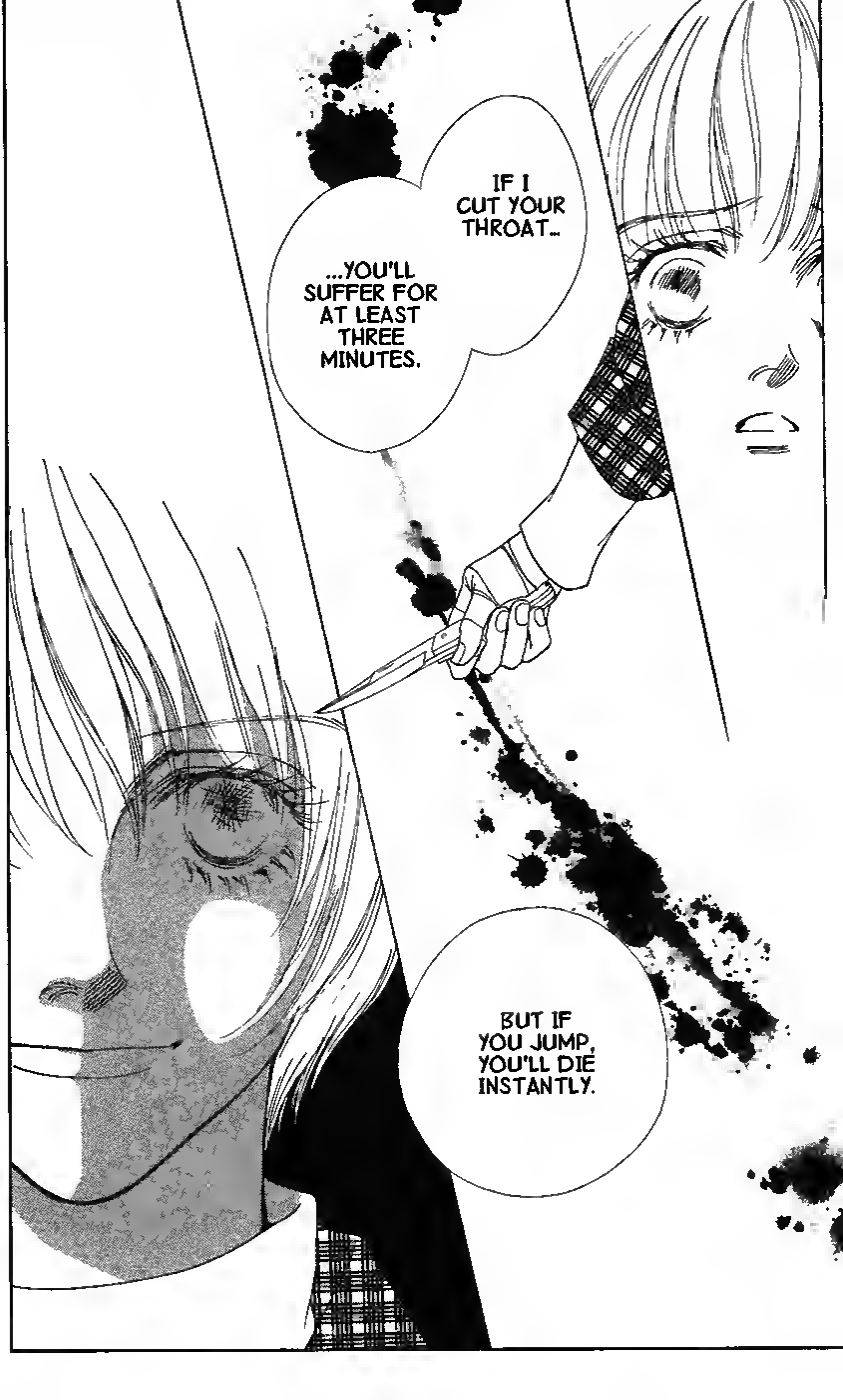

'WE CAN'T SAY FOR SURE BEFORE WE GET THE NEW TEST RESULTS BACK,
BUT IT'D BE WISE TO PREPARE FOR A LONG RECOVERY PERIOD.'
HEY...
I CAN STILL KEEP PAINTING... EVEN IF I DON'T GO TO SCHOOL, RIGHT?

MASAO?!

WHAT AN UNLUCKY GIRL YOU ARE..
...TO HAVE YOUR MOTHER COLLAPSE AT A TIME LIKE THIS.
BUT DON'T WORRY.. I'LL MAKE IT EASIER FOR YOU IN A MINUTE.
PA-CHING

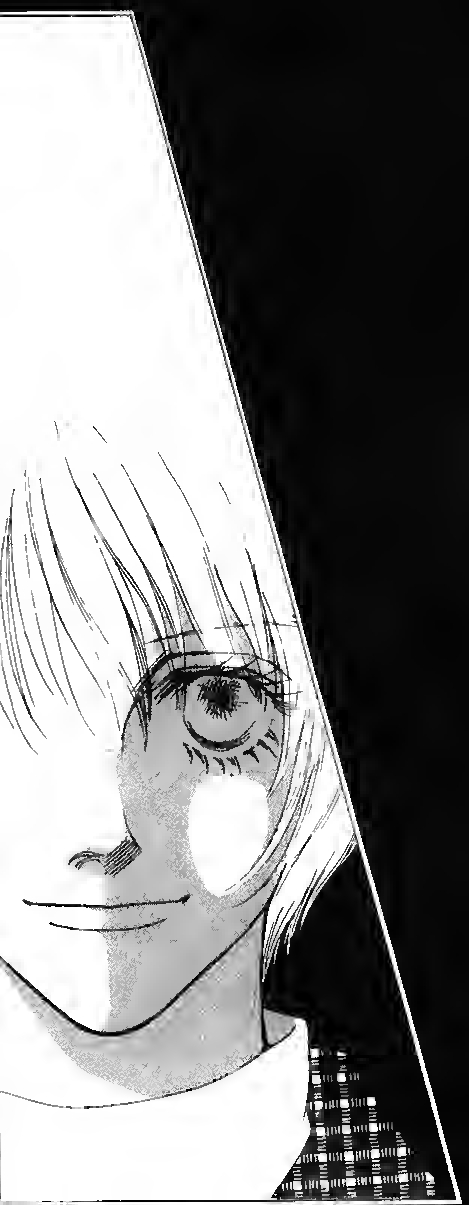
REI'S GOING TO JUST GET MORE AND MORE BORING WITH YOU AROUND.
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KILL YOU, BUT...
...IT CAN'T BE HELPED.
I SAY KILL YOU AND BE DONE WITH THIS. ACTUALLY, I DON'T PLAN TO LAY MY HANDS ON YOU...
BUT...
...THAT'S WHERE I'D LIKE YOU TO FALL FROM.

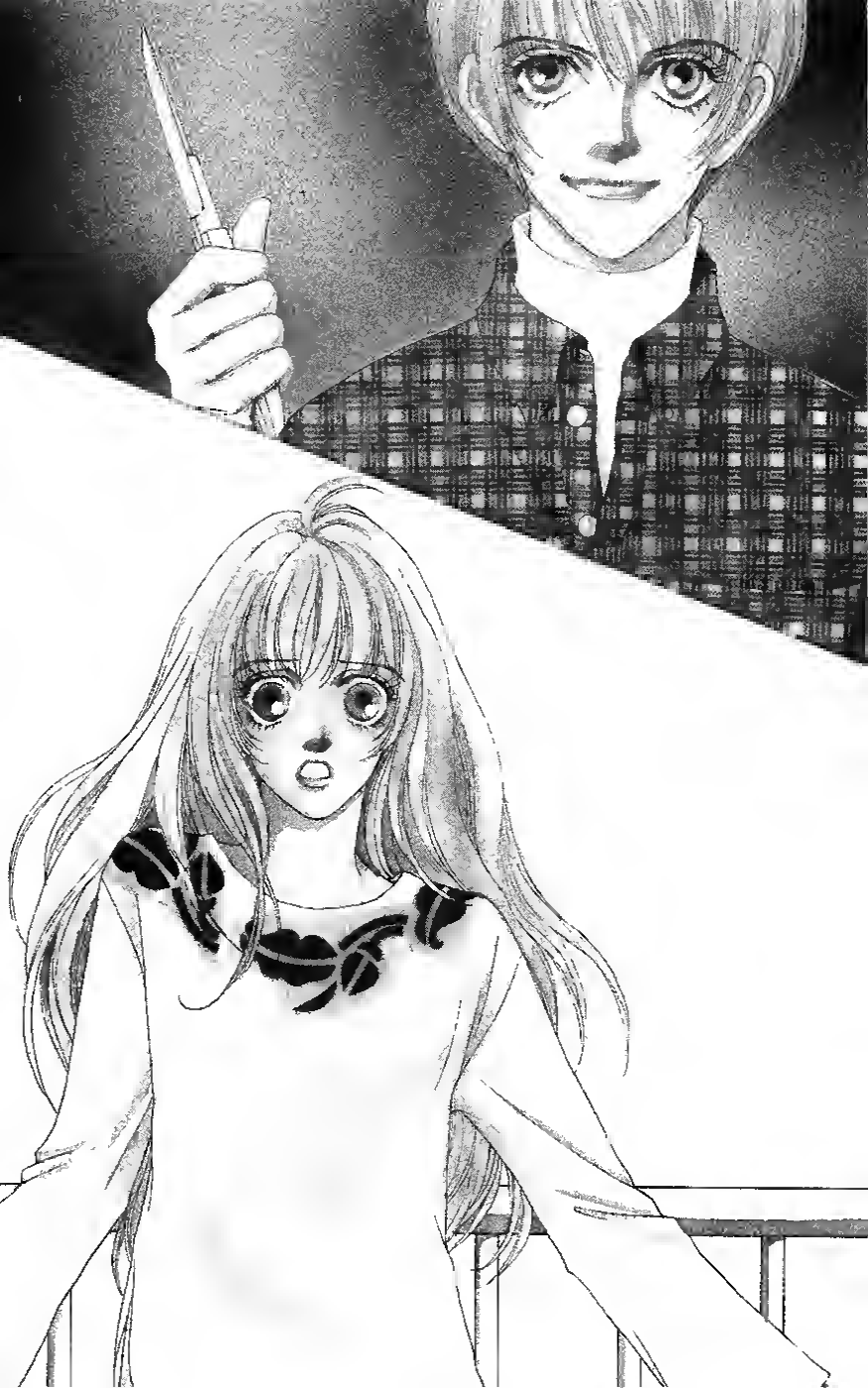

YOUR MOTHER'S IN THE HOSPITAL.
YOUR HOPES OF COLLEGE ARE CRUSHED.
IT'S A SITUATION WHERE A SUICIDE WOULDN'T BE SUSPECT.
WHY?
WHY WOULD YOU DO THIS TO ME? TO GET TO REI?
BECAUSE IT'S FUN.
BECAUSE HE'S MY DRUG.
YOU KNOW HOW THEY SAY...
ONCE YOU TAKE DRUGS, YOU CAN'T STOP? IT'S THE SAME THING.


IF I CUT YOUR THROAT...
...YOU'LL SUFFER FOR AT LEAST THREE MINUTES.
BUT IF YOU JUMP, YOU'LL DIE INSTANTLY.

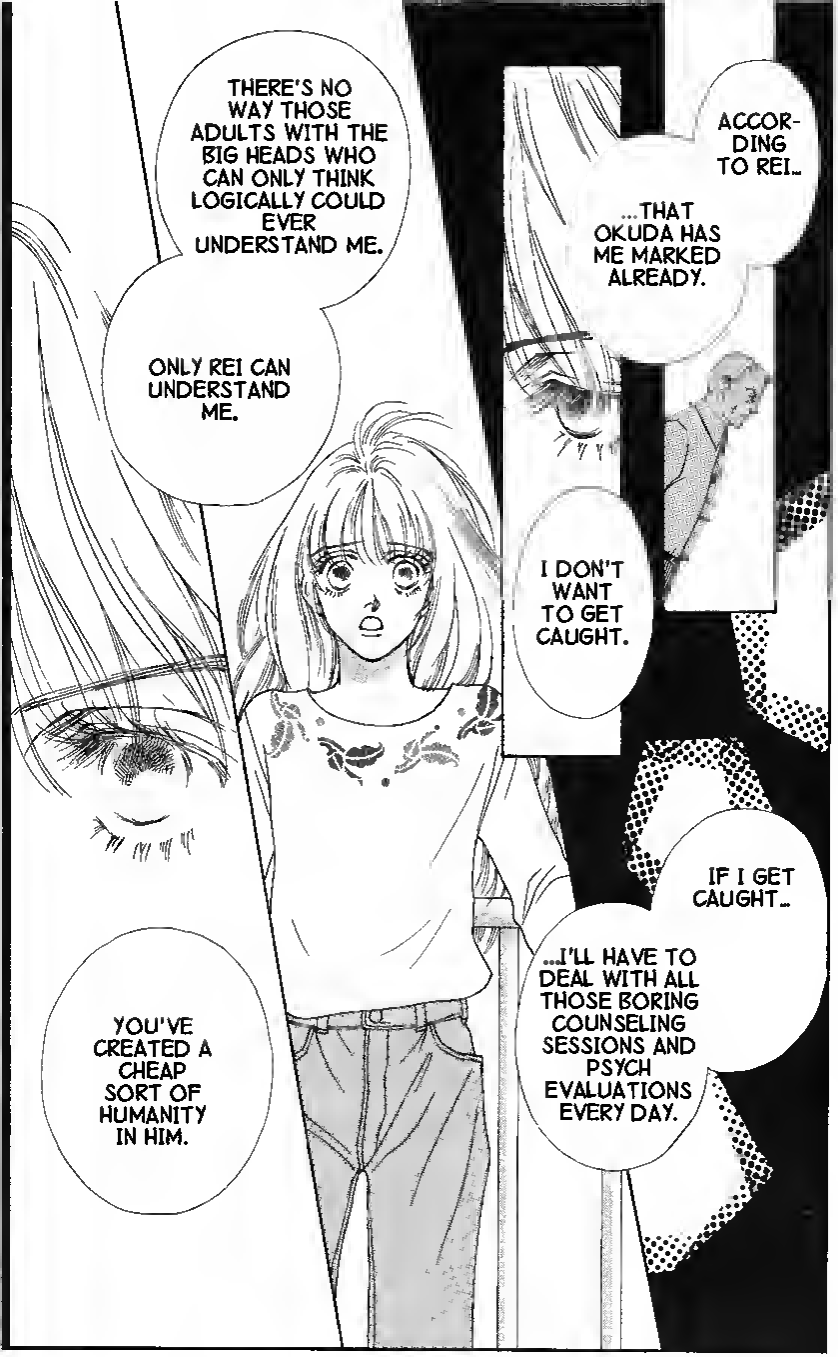
AT LEAST I'LL LET YOU CHOOSE HOW YOU DIE.

# MARS

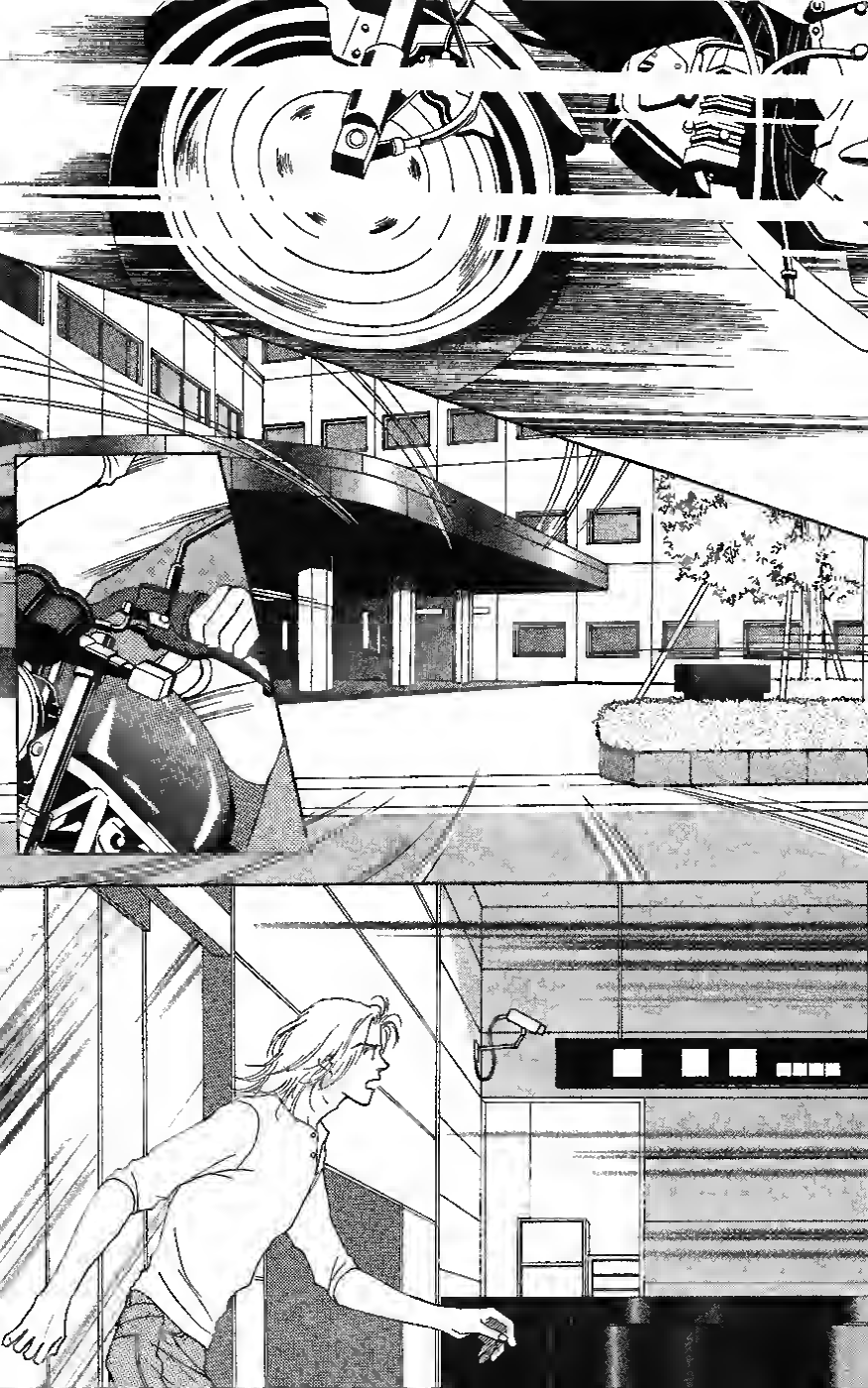




I CAN'T BELIEVE...
...YOU WOULD KILL SOMEONE FOR THESE REASONS.
YOU DON'T GET IT!
I DON'T REALLY WANT TO KILL YOU.
YOU KNOW HOW I'VE ALREADY KILLED SOMEONE? I THINK A SECOND VICTIM WOULD LOOK BAD.

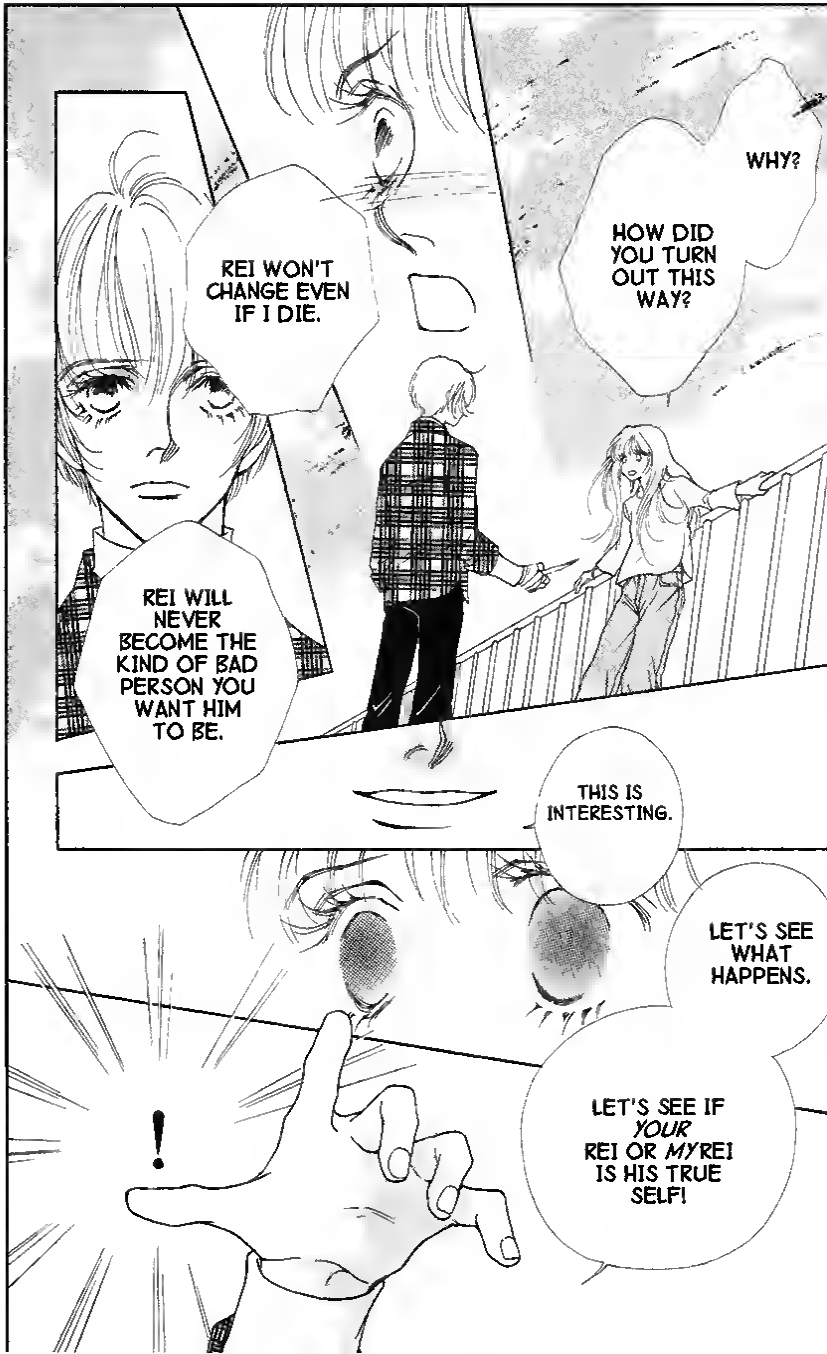

THERE'S NO WAY THOSE ADULTS WITH THE BIG HEADS WHO CAN ONLY THINK LOGICALLY COULD EVER UNDERSTAND ME.
ONLY REI CAN UNDERSTAND ME.
YOU'VE CREATED A CHEAP SORT OF HUMANITY IN HIM.
ACCOR-DING TO REI...
...THAT OKUDA HAS ME MARKED ALREADY.
I DON'T WANT TO GET CAUGHT.
IF I GET CAUGHT...
...I'LL HAVE TO DEAL WITH ALL THOSE BORING COUNSELING SESSIONS AND PSYCH EVALUATIONS EVERY DAY.

IT'S TIME FOR REI...
...TO RECLAIM HIS TRUE SELF...
...LIKE WHEN HIS TWIN BROTHER DIED THREE YEARS AGO.



WHAT ROOM IS MRS. ASO IN?
B201

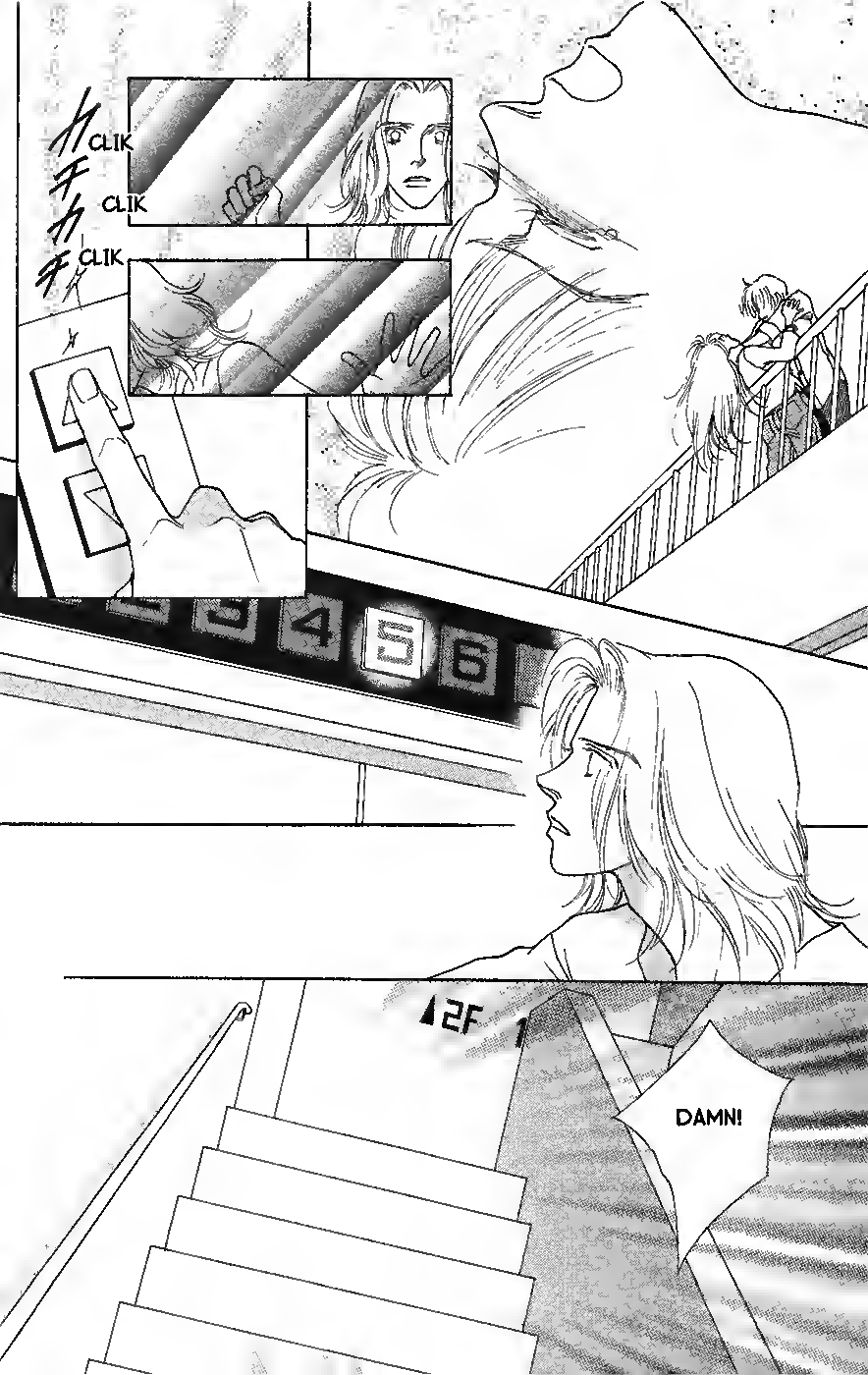
WH...
WHERE'S MRS. ASO?
MRS. ASO JUST WENT TO THE X-RAY AREA.
WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL WITH HER?
KIRA...
OH, HER DAUGHTER?
I WONDER WHERE SHE WENT.
SHE WAS HERE A MINUTE AGO.


WHY?
HOW DID YOU TURN OUT THIS WAY?
REI WON'T CHANGE EVEN IF I DIE.
REI WILL NEVER BECOME THE KIND OF BAD PERSON YOU WANT HIM TO BE.
THIS IS INTERESTING.
LET'S SEE WHAT HAPPENS.
LET'S SEE IF *YOUR* REI OR *MY* REI IS HIS TRUE SELF!
!

!
BOM

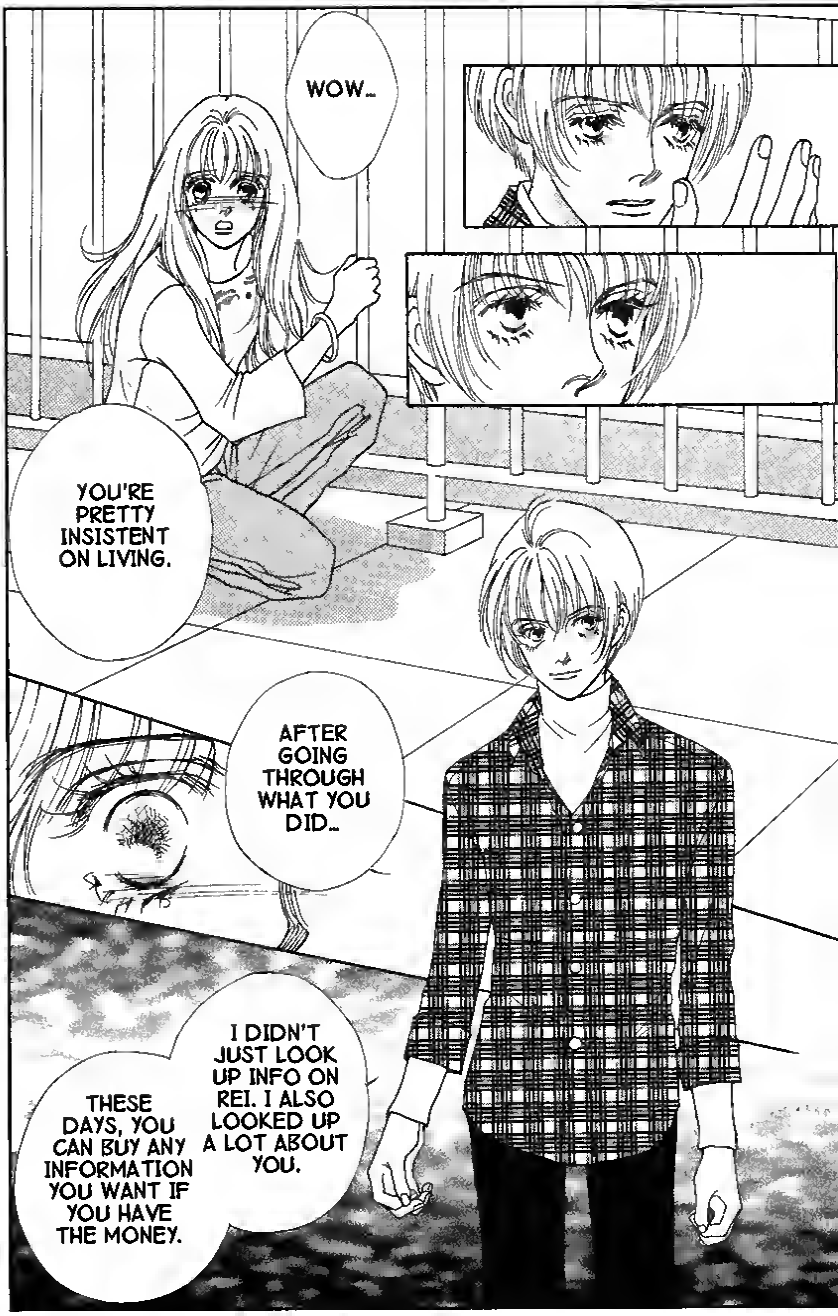
I MAY LOOK THE WAY I DO, BUT I'M STILL A MAN.
I'M STRONGER AND I HAVE QUICKER REFLEXES THAN YOU.
I REALLY WANTED TO GIVE YOU A CHOICE... TOO BAD.
I HAVE TO DO IT BY MY OWN HAND.
BUT DON'T WORRY.
I WON'T KILL YOU THE WAY I KILLED YUJI.
HIS HAND...
I CAN'T GET HIS HAND OFF.

RRRIP
REI...!!!


CLIK
CLIK
CLIK
2F
DAMN!

2F 1F
KIRA..

CHOMP
THIS GUY IS REALLY GOING TO...
AM I GOING TO DIE!?


WOW...
YOU'RE PRETTY INSISTENT ON LIVING.
AFTER GOING THROUGH WHAT YOU DID...
I DIDN'T JUST LOOK UP INFO ON REI. I ALSO LOOKED UP A LOT ABOUT YOU.
THESE DAYS, YOU CAN BUY ANY INFORMATION YOU WANT IF YOU HAVE THE MONEY.

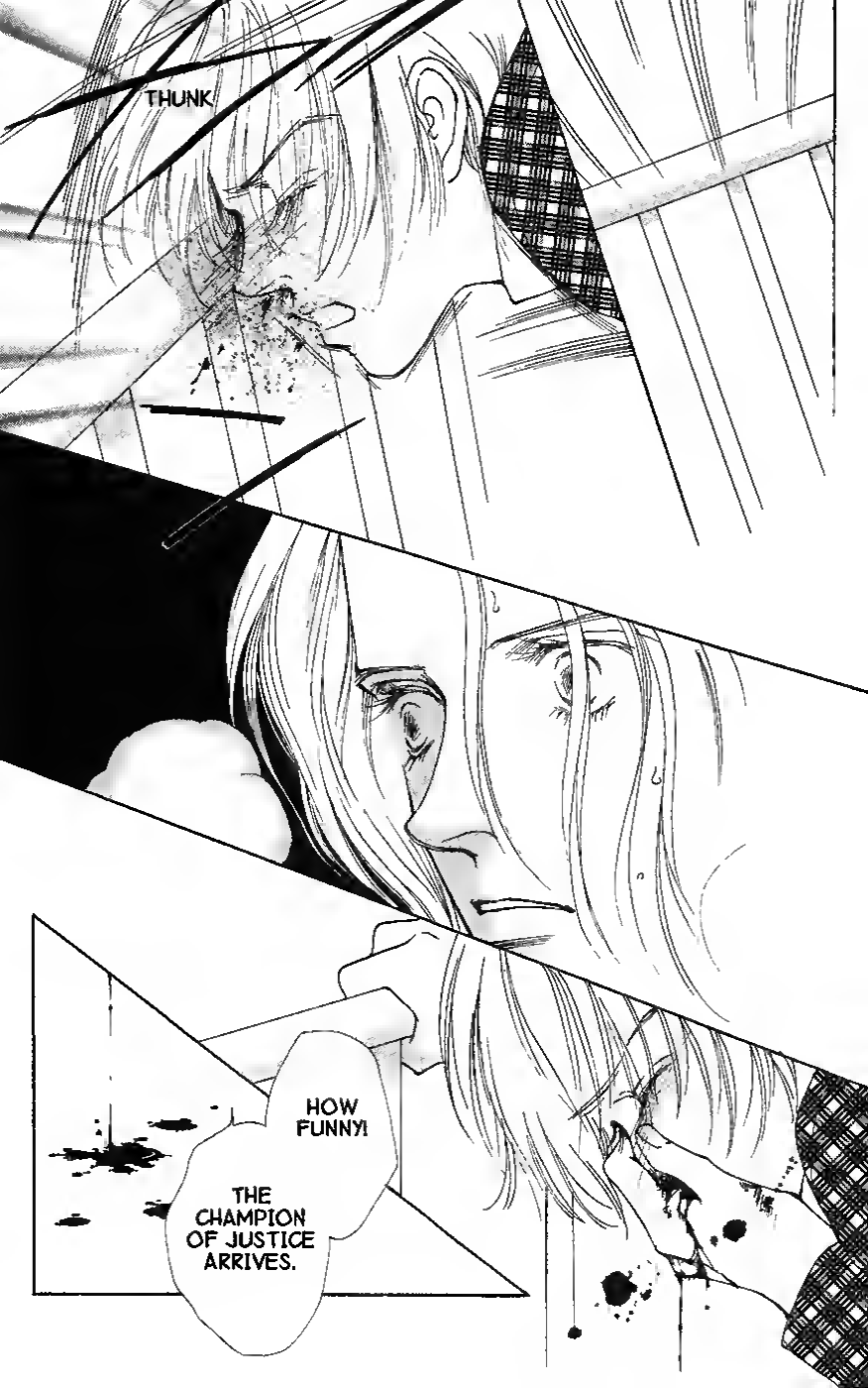
DOES REI KNOW YET?
OH...

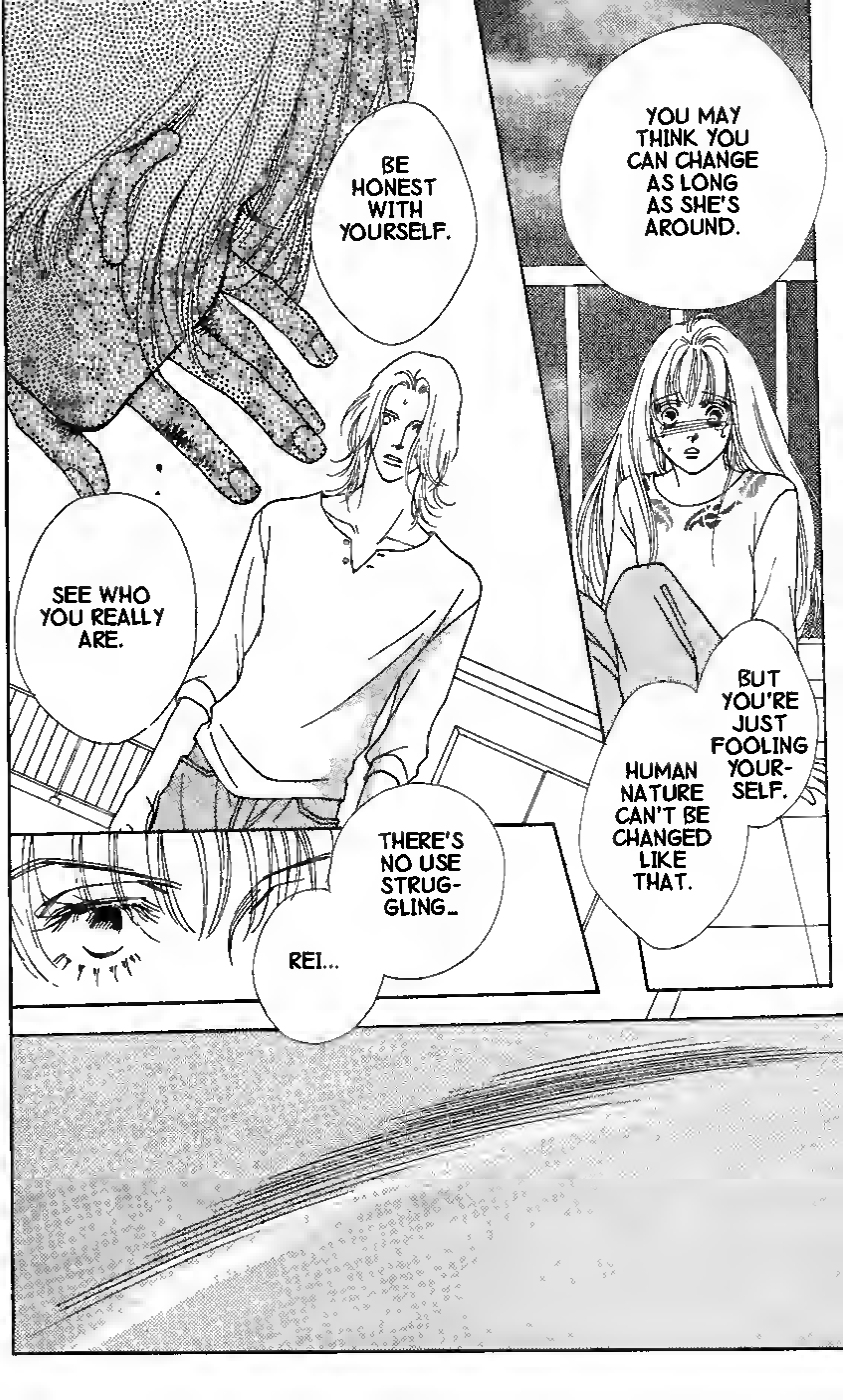
AFTER SOME-THING LIKE THAT...
...EVEN YOUR MOTHER WOULDN'T HAVE BLAMED YOU FOR COMMITTING SUICIDE.
...A TYPICAL MURDER WITH NO MOTIVE.
IT'S UNFORTU-NATE, BUT ONTO PLAN B...

CLANK
CLANK
CLANK

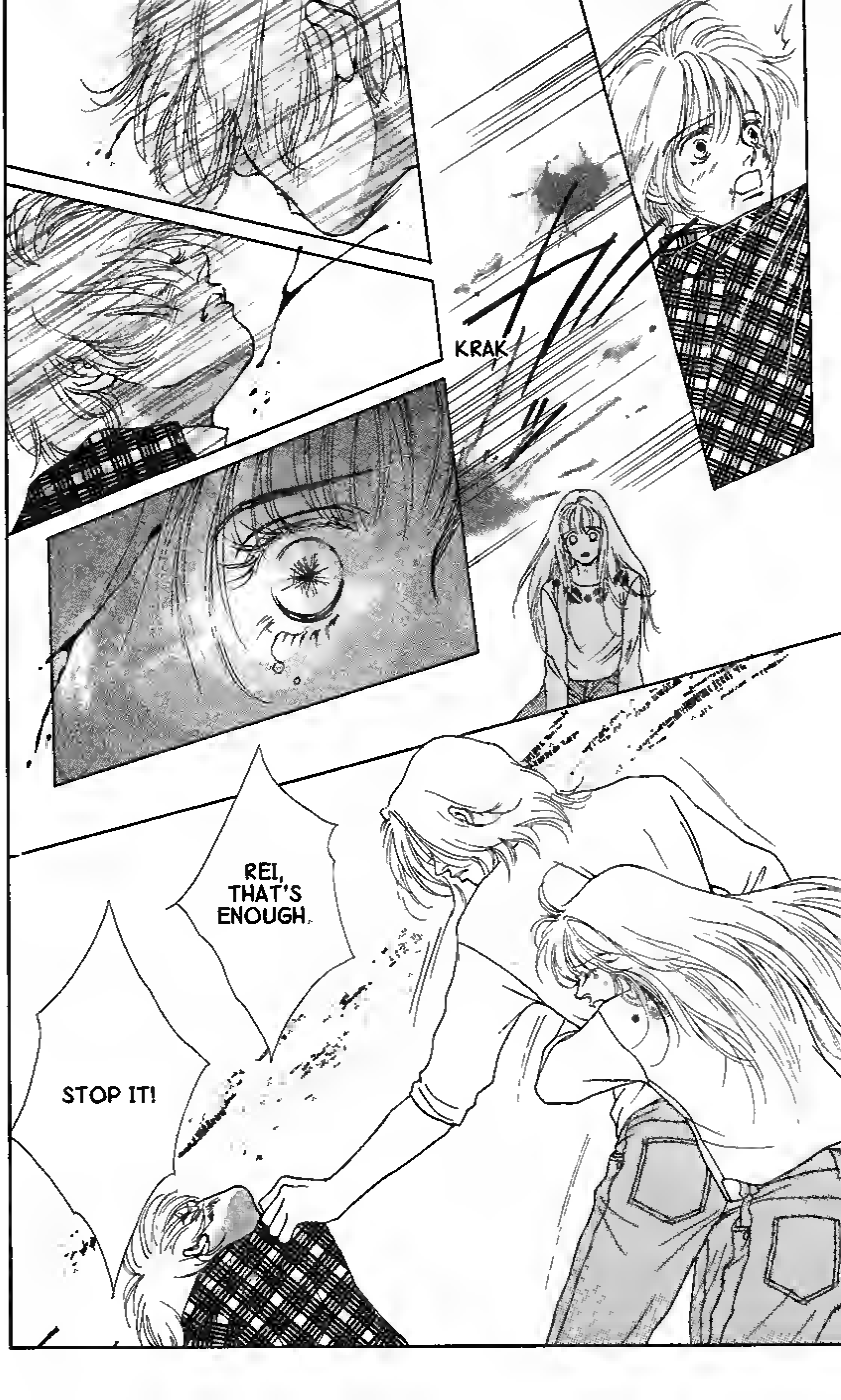
SMMAAAAK

CHINK
REI...


THUNK
HOW FUNNY!
THE CHAMPION OF JUSTICE ARRIVES.


YOU MAY THINK YOU CAN CHANGE AS LONG AS SHE'S AROUND.
BE HONEST WITH YOURSELF.
SEE WHO YOU REALLY ARE.
BUT YOU'RE JUST FOOLING YOURSELF.
HUMAN NATURE CAN'T BE CHANGED LIKE THAT.
THERE'S NO USE STRUGGLING...
REI...

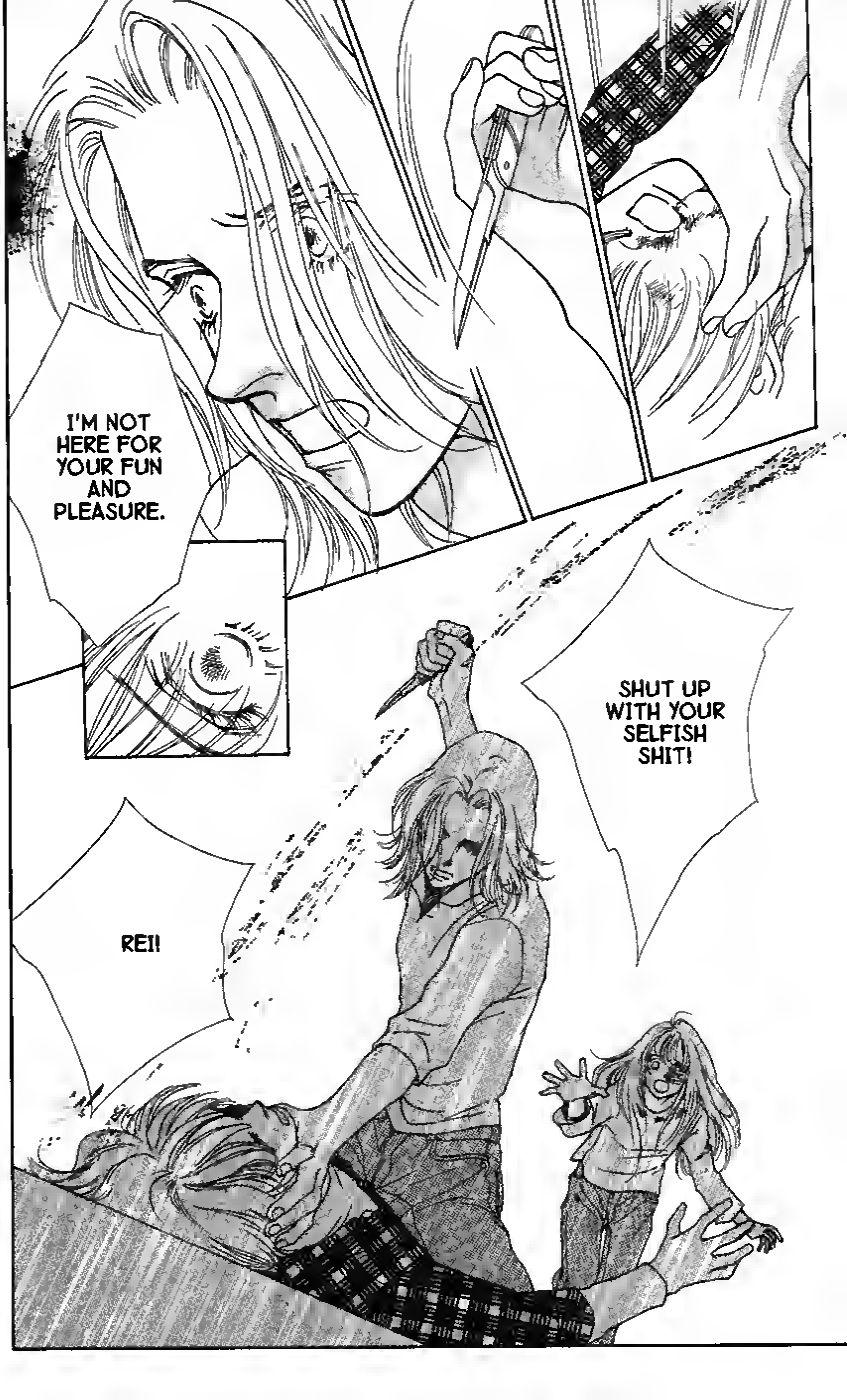
KRAK
THUD


KRAK
REI, THAT'S ENOUGH.
STOP IT!

PLEASE...
...ENOUGH HURTING AND BEING HURT.
LET'S STOP IT.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY MORE.

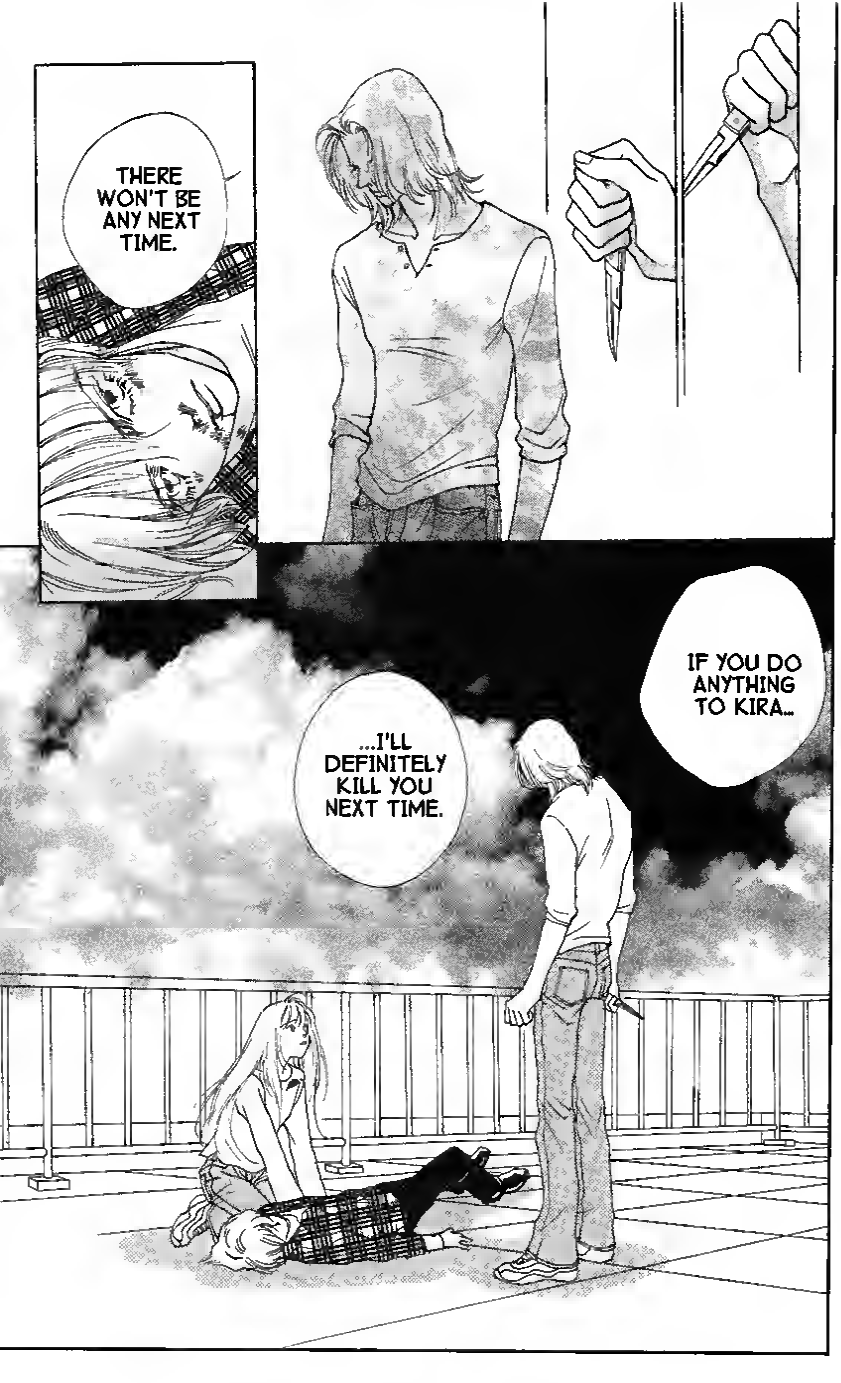
KIRA!?
WATCH OUT, REI!

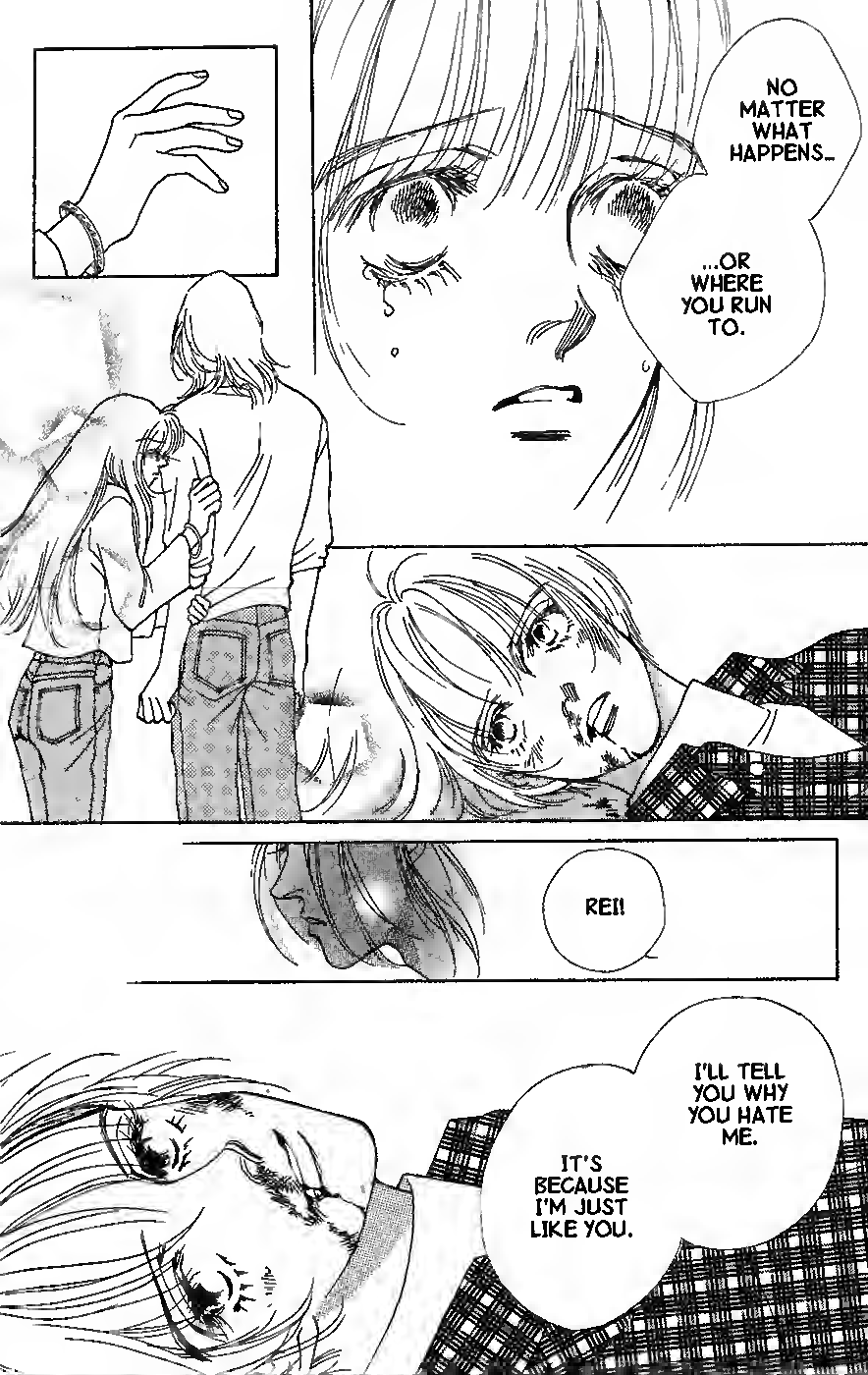
YOU'RE SO DAMN WELL-BEHAVED!
IT DISGUSTS ME.


I'M NOT HERE FOR YOUR FUN AND PLEASURE.
SHUT UP WITH YOUR SELFISH SHIT!
REI!

BOMF
MOVE!
THIS GUY TRIED TO KILL YOU.
HE'S JUST GOING TO DO THE SAME THING AGAIN. MOVE!
NO.
NO, I WON'T MOVE.

YOU...
...YOU CAN'T KILL HIM.
YOU'LL REGRET IT IF YOU DO.
YOU'LL BLAME YOURSELF AT SOME POINT.
I...
...DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU GO THROUGH THAT.
I DON'T WANT TO SEE IT...


THERE WON'T BE ANY NEXT TIME.
IF YOU DO ANYTHING TO KIRA...
...I'LL DEFINITELY KILL YOU NEXT TIME.


NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS...
...OR WHERE YOU RUN TO.
REI!
I'LL TELL YOU WHY YOU HATE ME.
IT'S BECAUSE I'M JUST LIKE YOU.

YOU HATE WHAT REMINDS YOU OF YOURSELF.

DON'T GO ANYWHERE NEAR THAT GUY.
DON'T EVER BE ALONE UNLESS YOU'RE AT HOME. GOT IT?
I'M GOING TO SEE OFFICER OKUDA RIGHT NOW.
EITHER WAY, I CAN'T LEAVE MASAO ALONE.

SHK
SHK
SHK
REI?
HE'S SCREWED UP IN THE HEAD.
HE REALLY TRIED TO KILL YOU.
...I TRIED TO KILL HIM, TOO.
...FOR NO REASON AT ALL, JUST BECAUSE HE WANTED, HE...
THAT IS...
AND I...

AFTER A WHILE, ALL I WANTED TO DO WAS KILL HIM.
I HATED HIM.
I HATED HIM AND COULDN'T STAND IT.
...CUT THAT GUY TO BITS.
EVEN NOW...
...IF YOU WEREN'T HERE RIGHT NOW, I'D RUN UP TO THE ROOF AND...
NO, I...
YOU WERE TRYING TO PROTECT ME, AND...
THAT'S DIF-FERENT.

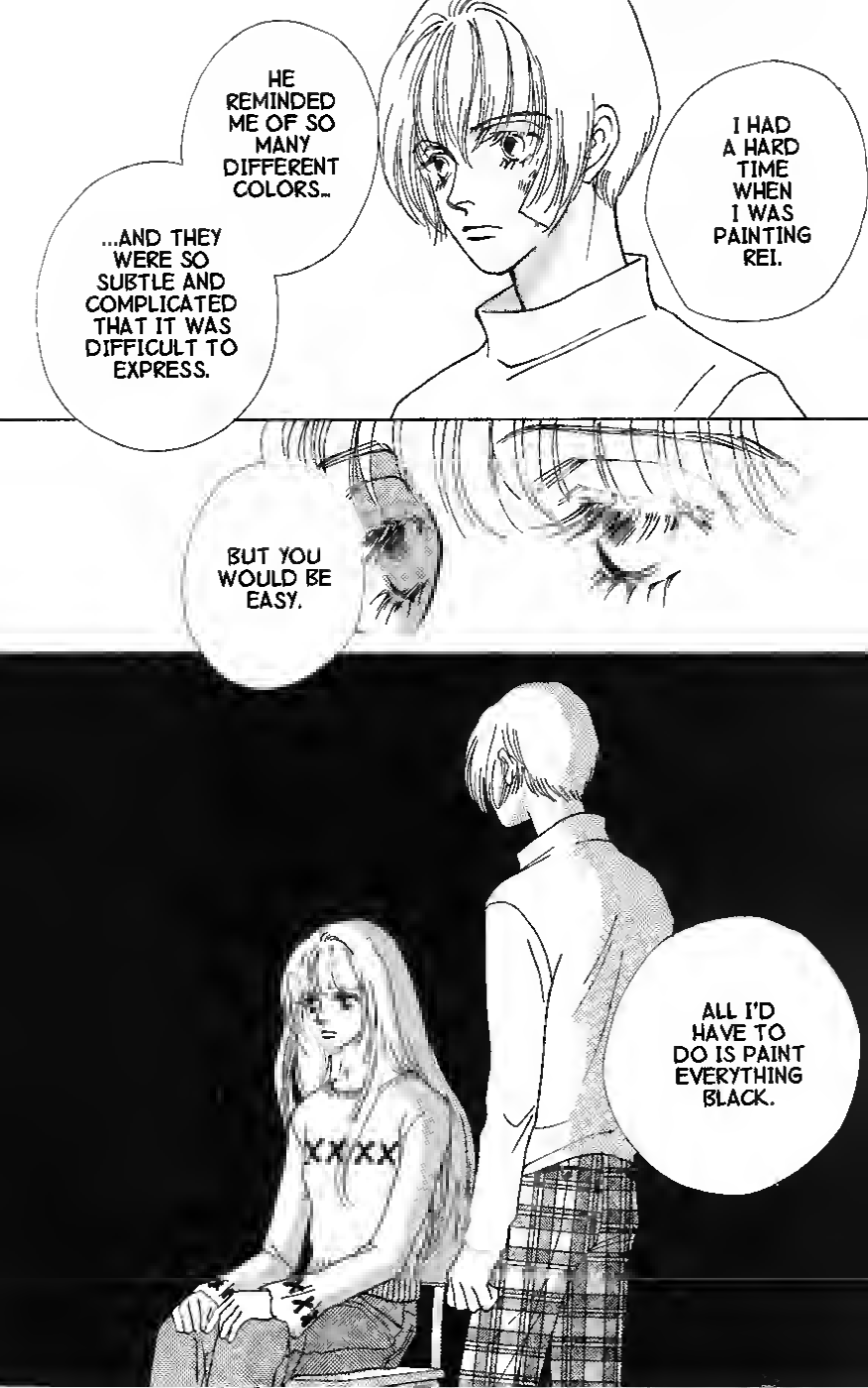
I'D CUT HIM UP UNTIL THERE WAS NO BLOOD LEFT IN HIS BODY.
I'M...
...SCREWED UP, TOO.

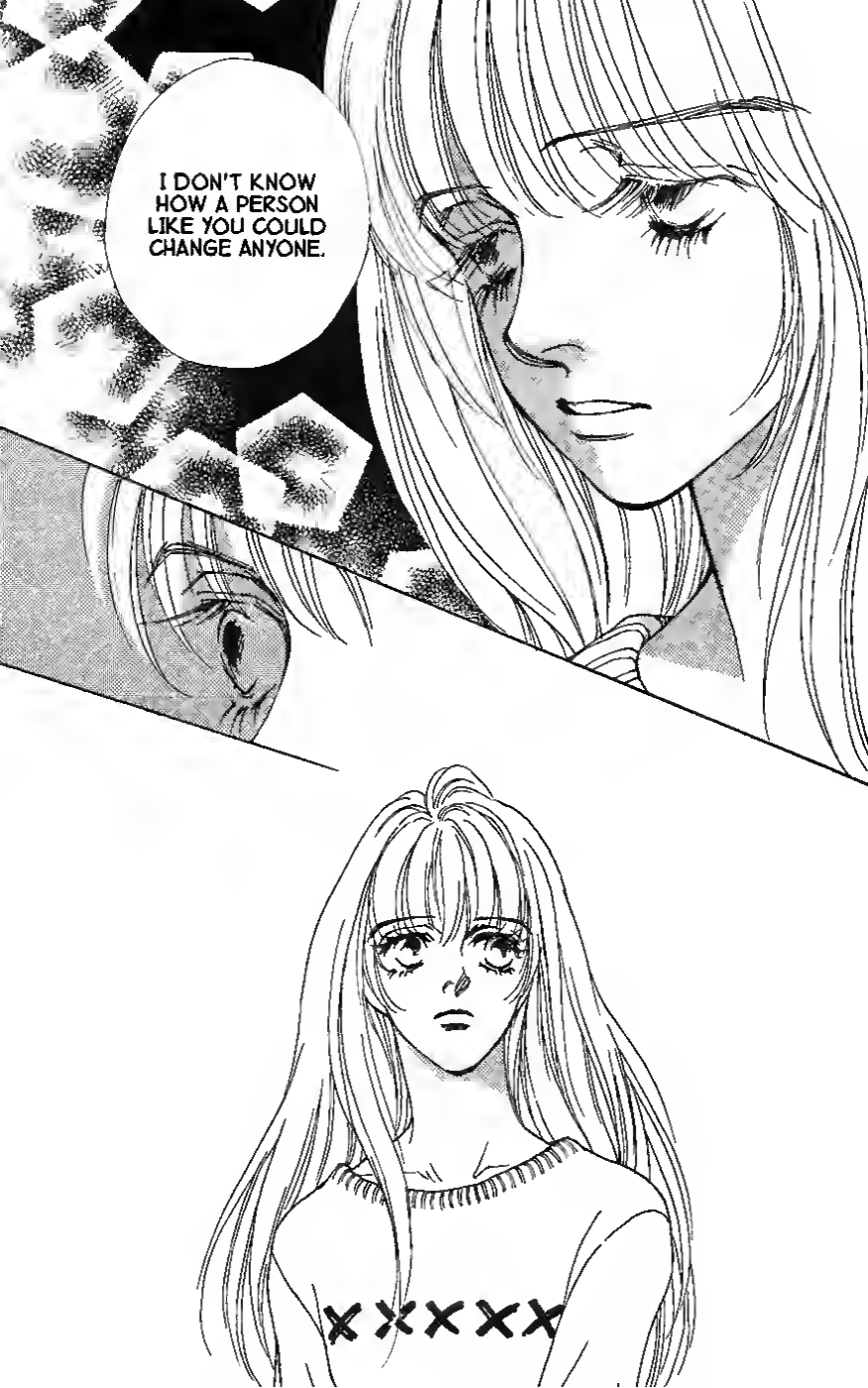
MASAO!
AN UPPER-CLASSMAN FROM THE ART CLUB SAYS TO COME BY THE STUDIO.
CREAK
ART CLUB
THE ART CLUB?

KIRA?!
WHAT A SURPRISE...
...THAT YOU'D WANT TO TALK TO ME.
AREN'T YOU AFRAID OF ME AFTER WHAT I DID?
I'M SCARED...
...VERY SCARED.

BUT, AS WEIRD AS THIS SOUNDS, I'M ALSO A LITTLE JEALOUS...
...THAT YOU CAN ACT ON WHATEVER YOU FEEL.
I ALWAYS THOUGHT...
...THAT IT WOULD FEEL SO GOOD FOR ALL THE PEOPLE I DON'T LIKE IN THIS WORLD TO JUST DISAPPEAR...
...AND THAT I WOULDN'T MIND KILLING SOMEONE TO MAKE THAT HAPPEN.

BUT...
IT JUST SEEMS LIKE IN A WAY IT WOULD FEEL GOOD TO LIVE OUT YOUR SECRET DESIRES.
ANYWAY, I DON'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO KILL ANYONE.
BUT YOU CAN'T USUALLY DO THAT.
YOU PROBABLY END UP LOSING YOURSELF...
YOU PROBABLY BECOME A PERSON WHO DOESN'T CARE, WHO'S JUST EXISTING.
...AND WHAT YOU SHOULD DO.
YOU FORGET WHO YOU ARE...

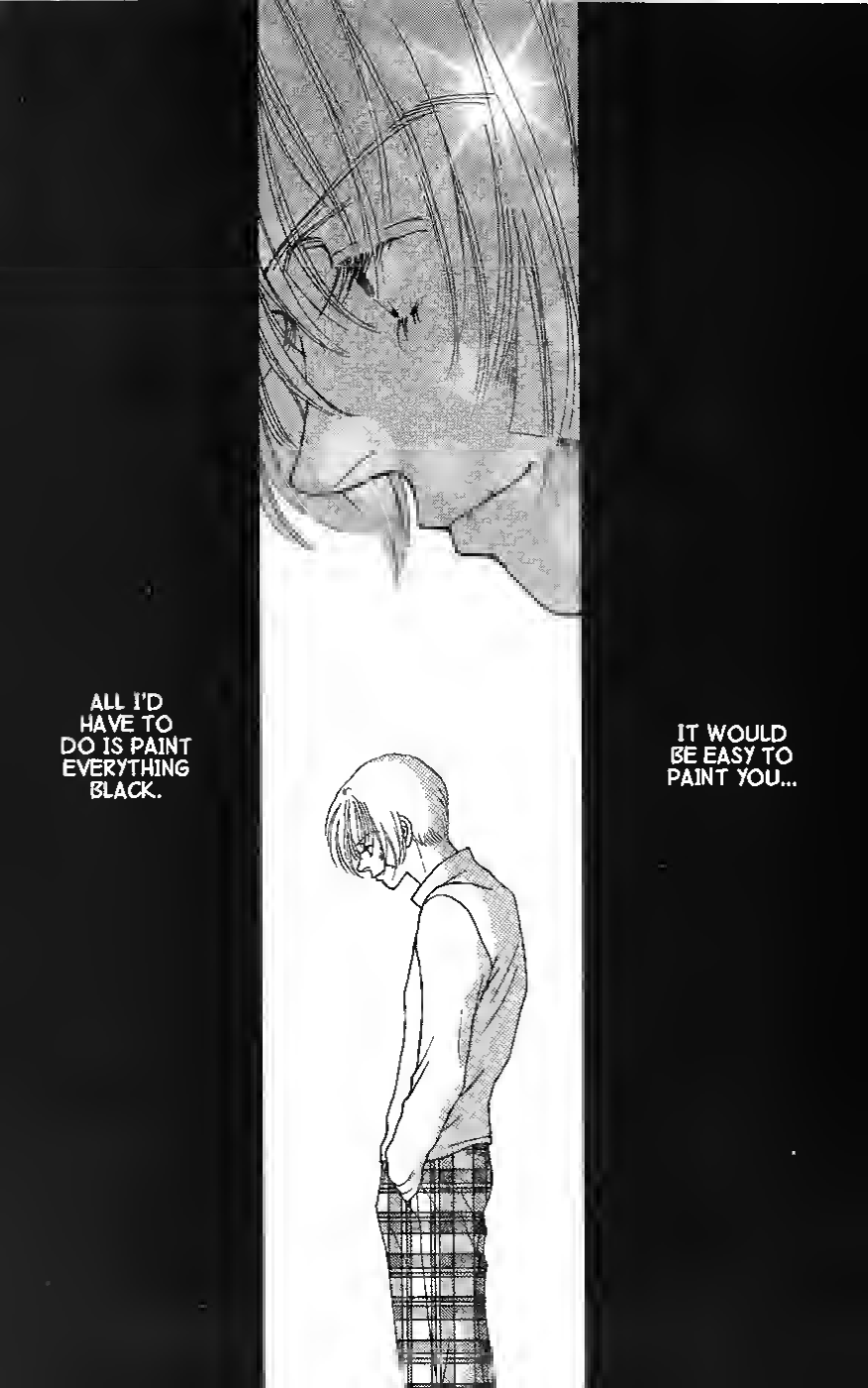

HE REMINDED ME OF SO MANY DIFFERENT COLORS..
...AND THEY WERE SO SUBTLE AND COMPLICATED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO EXPRESS.
I HAD A HARD TIME WHEN I WAS PAINTING REI.
BUT YOU WOULD BE EASY.
ALL I'D HAVE TO DO IS PAINT EVERYTHING BLACK.
XXXX


I DON'T KNOW HOW A PERSON LIKE YOU COULD CHANGE ANYONE.

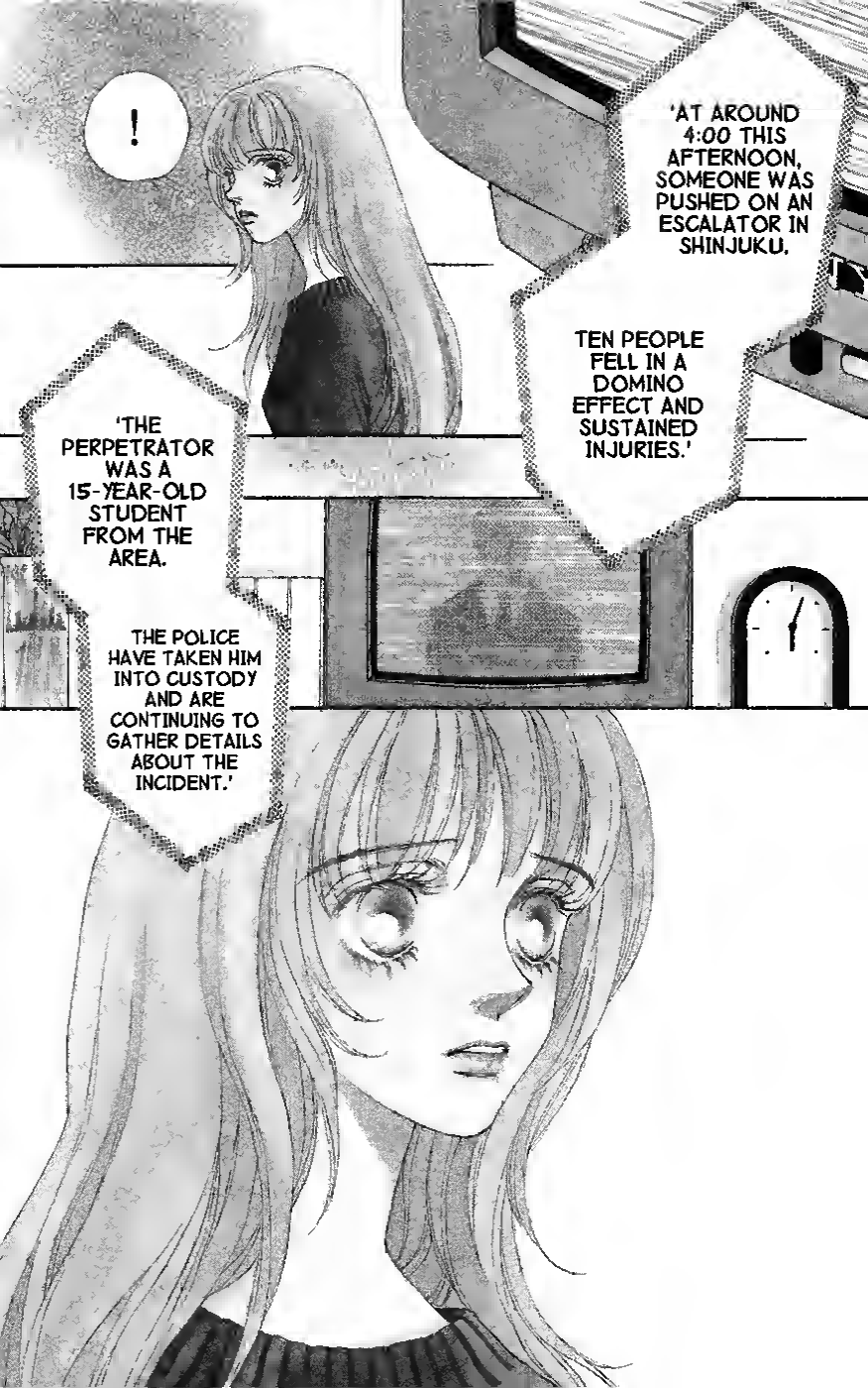
YOU'RE NOTHING LIKE HIM AT ALL.

YUNIE, HURRY UP
HEEEY, WAIT UP!!
KRUSH
WHAT, REALLY?
THAT OLD MAN PISSES ME OFF!

SHOVE
!


ALL I'D HAVE TO DO IS PAINT EVERYTHING BLACK.
IT WOULD BE EASY TO PAINT YOU...

MARS


!
'AT AROUND 4:00 THIS AFTERNOON, SOMEONE WAS PUSHED ON AN ESCALATOR IN SHINJUKU.
TEN PEOPLE FELL IN A DOMINO EFFECT AND SUSTAINED INJURIES.'
'THE PERPETRATOR WAS A 15-YEAR-OLD STUDENT FROM THE AREA.
THE POLICE HAVE TAKEN HIM INTO CUSTODY AND ARE CONTINUING TO GATHER DETAILS ABOUT THE INCIDENT.'

BUT THE GIRL STEPPED ON MY FOOT..
...AND RAN OFF WITHOUT APOLOGIZING.
IT PISSED ME OFF.
IS THAT WHY YOU SHOVED HER?
DO YOU KNOW THAT MANY PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T EVEN INVOLVED WERE INJURED BECAUSE OF THAT?

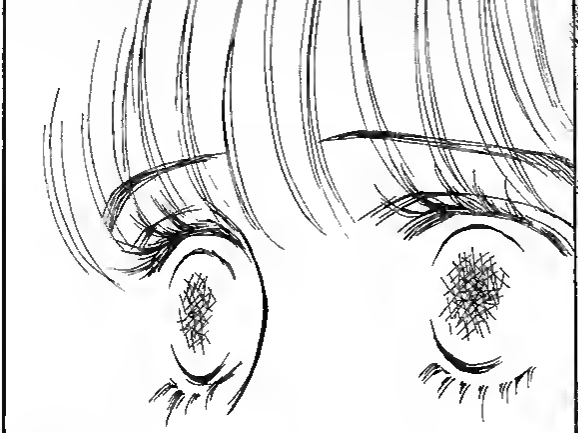
WHY ARE YOU LAUGH-ING?
BECAUSE...
KE KE KE
CHUCKLE
...I WAS THINKING ABOUT HOWTHE PEOPLE FELL OVER, JUST LIKE DOMINOES...
IT'S FUNNY, THINKING ABOUT IT NOW...
HE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ON ANY DRUGS.
THIS IS DEFINITELY A CASE FOR SOME PSYCHIATRIC TESTS.

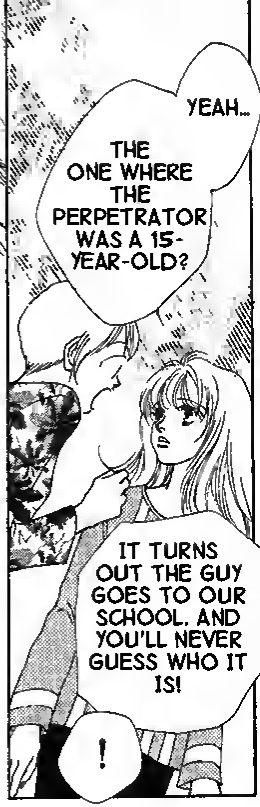
YOU KNOW REI KASHINO, RIGHT?
HE CALLED HERE YESTERDAY.
HE SAID YOU TRIED TO HURT HIS FRIEND, KIRA ASO.
IS THAT TRUE?
IT'S TRUE.
I WANTED TO SEE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN...
...IF REI'S GIRLFRIEND WERE TAKEN AWAY FROM HIM.
WHY DID YOU DO IT?
BUT I WON'T DO IT AGAIN.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO KIRA ASO, REI WOULD PROBABLY KILL ME.

THAT GUY IS PRETTY HARDCORE WHEN IT COMES TO THINGS LIKE THAT.
OH!
OFFICER OKUDA, PLEASE GIVE THIS MESSAGE TO KIRA IF YOU SEE HER.
I MIGHT WANT TO BE LIKE REI, BUT...
...IN REALITY, I'M MUCH MORE LIKE HER.

'IT'S TOO BAD WE DIDN'T UNDERSTAND EACH OTHER.'
'DOES REI KNOW YET?'

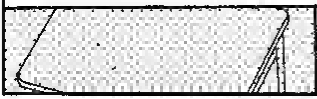
HEY, YOU GUYS, GUESS WHAT?!
YOU KNOW THAT ESCALATOR ACCUDENT IN SHINJUKU YESTERDAY? A GUY FROM OUR SCHOOL WAS BEHIND IT!.
BUT...
WHO WAS IT?
THAT'S THE THING.
NO WAY, ARE YOU SERIOUS?
KIRA!
DID YOU SEE THE NEWS YESTERDAY?
!
THAT THING IN SHINJUKU WHERE EVERYONE FELL OVER LIKE DOMINOES?

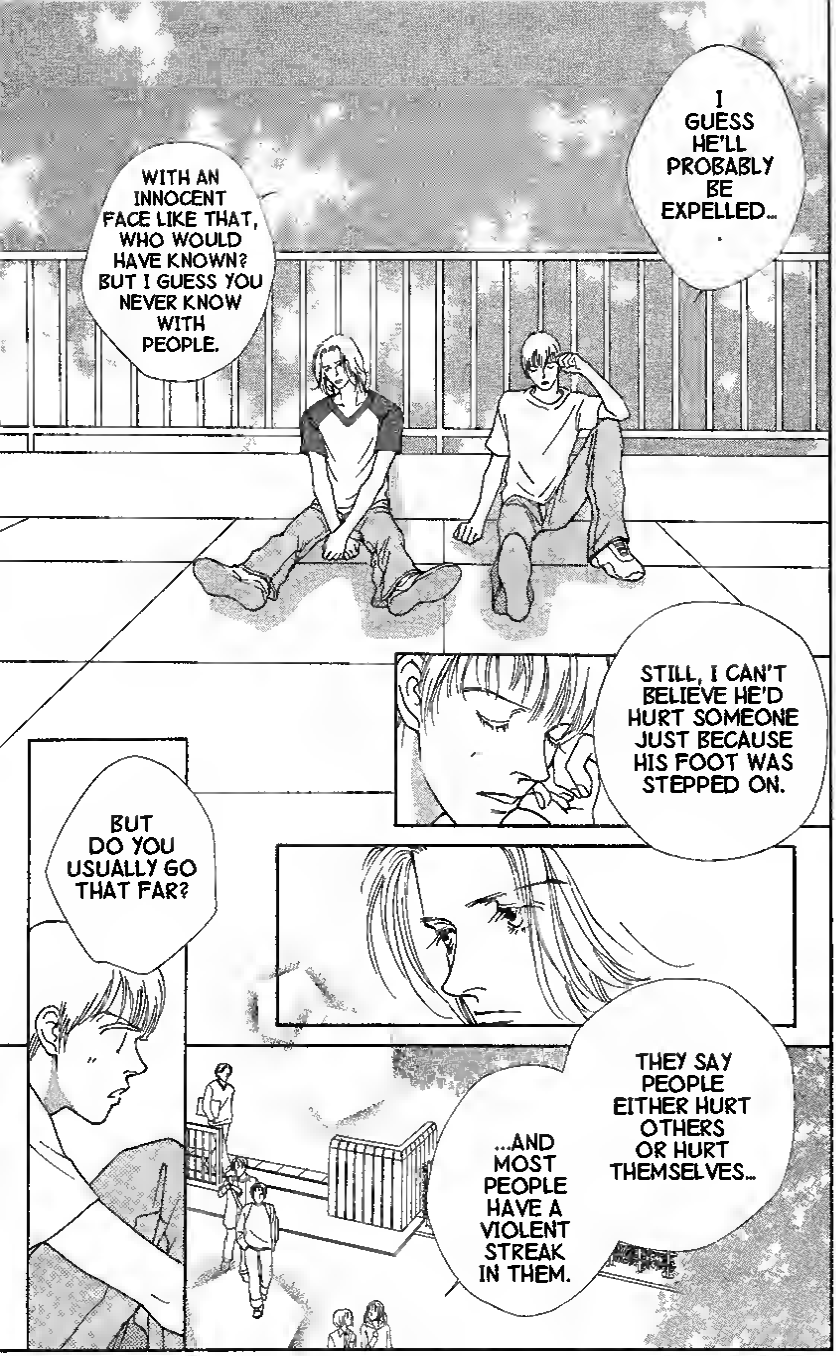




MASAO KIRISHIMA... THAT FIRST-YEAR STUDENT!

'IT JUST SEEMS LIKE IN A WAY IT WOULD FEEL GOOD TO LIVE OUT YOUR SECRET DESIRES.'



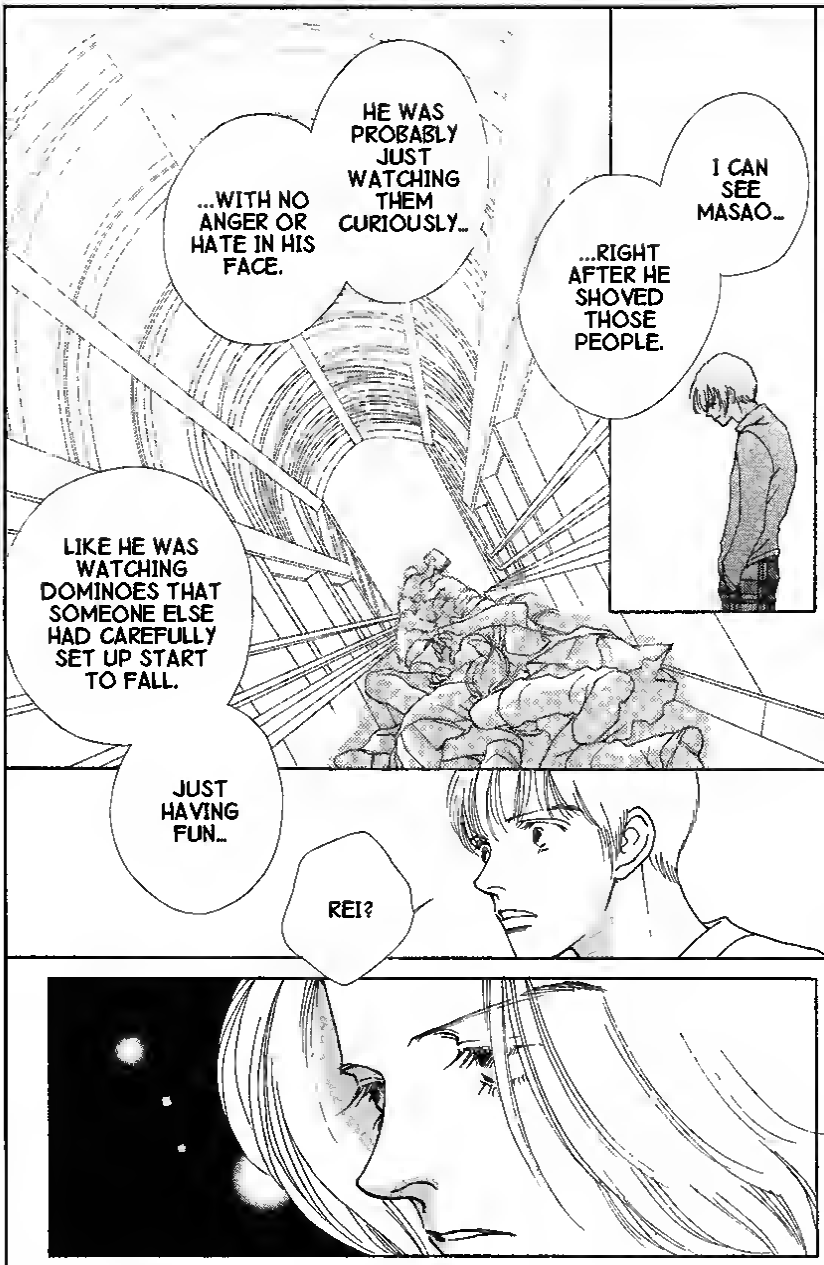

I GUESS HE'LL PROBABLY BE EXPELLED...
WITH AN INNOCENT FACE LIKE THAT, WHO WOULD HAVE KNOWN? BUT I GUESS YOU NEVER KNOW WITH PEOPLE.
STILL, I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D HURT SOMEONE JUST BECAUSE HIS FOOT WAS STEPPED ON.
BUT DO YOU USUALLY GO THAT FAR?
THEY SAY PEOPLE EITHER HURT OTHERS OR HURT THEMSELVES...
...AND MOST PEOPLE HAVE A VIOLENT STREAK IN THEM.

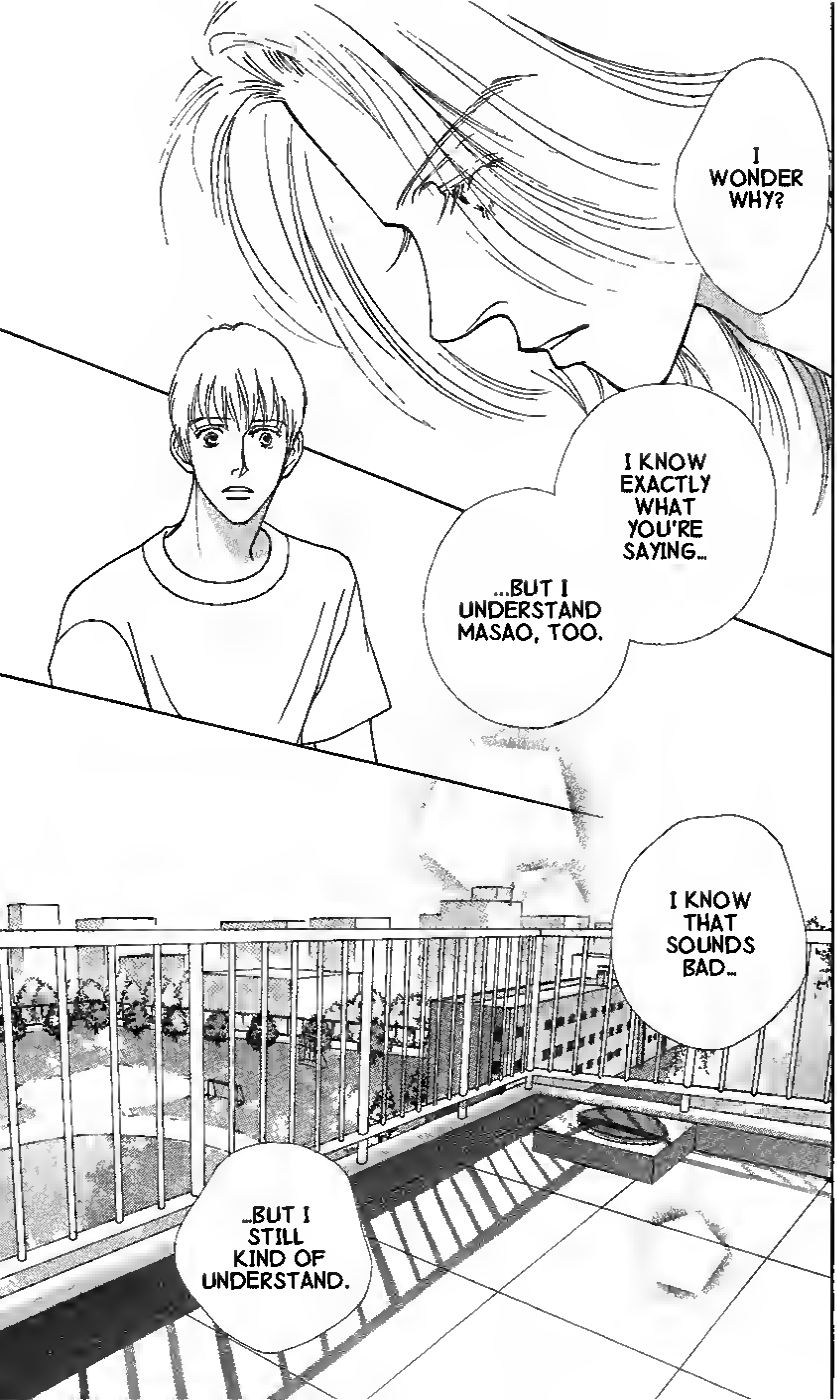
IF YOU'RE PISSED OFF, YOU SHOULD JUST SAY SOMETHING TO THE PERSON.
I MEAN, YOU'RE DEALING WITH ANOTHER HUMAN BEING.
WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF HARUMI WAS HURT?
W...WELL, OF COURSE I'D BE PISSED.
BUT PURE VIOLENCE...
WHAT IF HARUMI WERE KILLED?
...AND THERE WAS NO MOTIVE?
IF SOMEONE JUST KILLED HER FOR FUN...

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
WHAT...
THAT'S THE EXTREME. THIS ISN'T...
THEY'RE HUMAN, TOO, AND THEY MUST'VE HAD THEIR REASONS.
AND IF IT'S FATE, WHAT CAN YOU DO?
I WOULD KILL HIM...
NO...
EVEN IF I DIDN'T ACTUALLY KILL HIM, I'D PROBABLY...

I WOULD WANT TO KILL...
...FOR SURE.
I'M NOT THAT GREAT OF A GUY, YOU KNOW.
HEY, YOU'RE STILL A GOOD GUY.
IT'S HONEST TO ADMIT YOU'D KILL SOMEONE BECAUSE YOU HATE THEM.

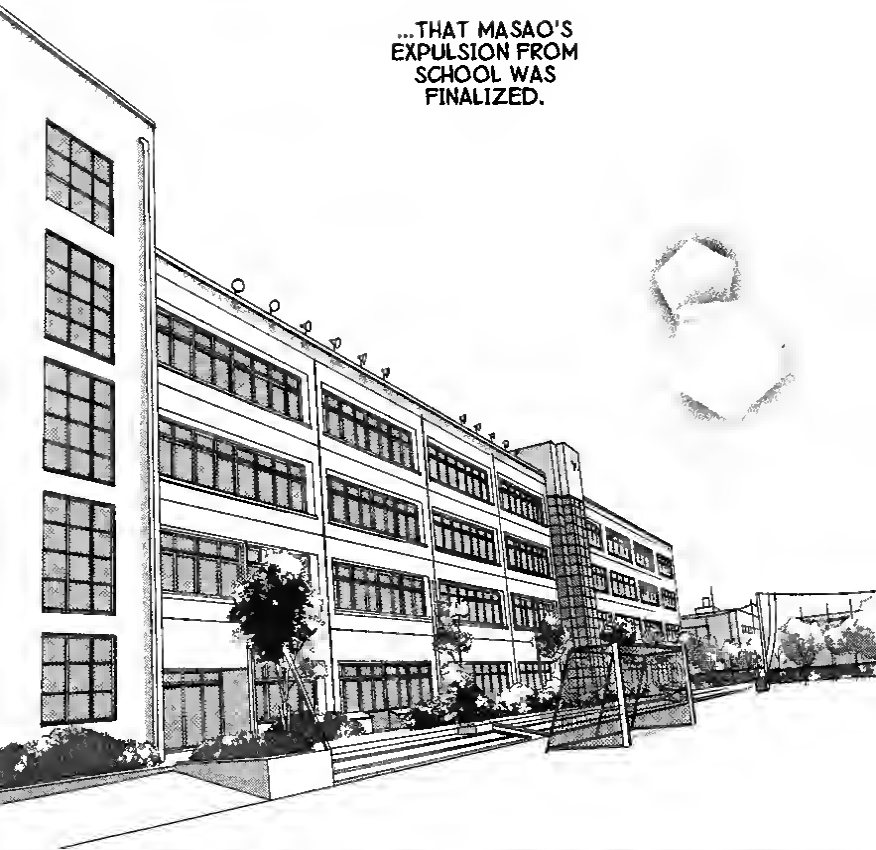
WHAT'S REALLY BAD...
IS WHEN YOU KILL WITHOUT FEELING ANY HATRED.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHETHER THE GUY IS A GOOD GUY OR A BAD GUY...
ONCE THAT PERSON'S VALUE IS REDUCED TO ZERO, THEY'RE NO LONGER PEOPLE.
THEY'RE JUST MEANING-LESS THINGS.
THAT'S NOT INTENT TO KILL...
THAT'S JUST DESTRUC-TION.

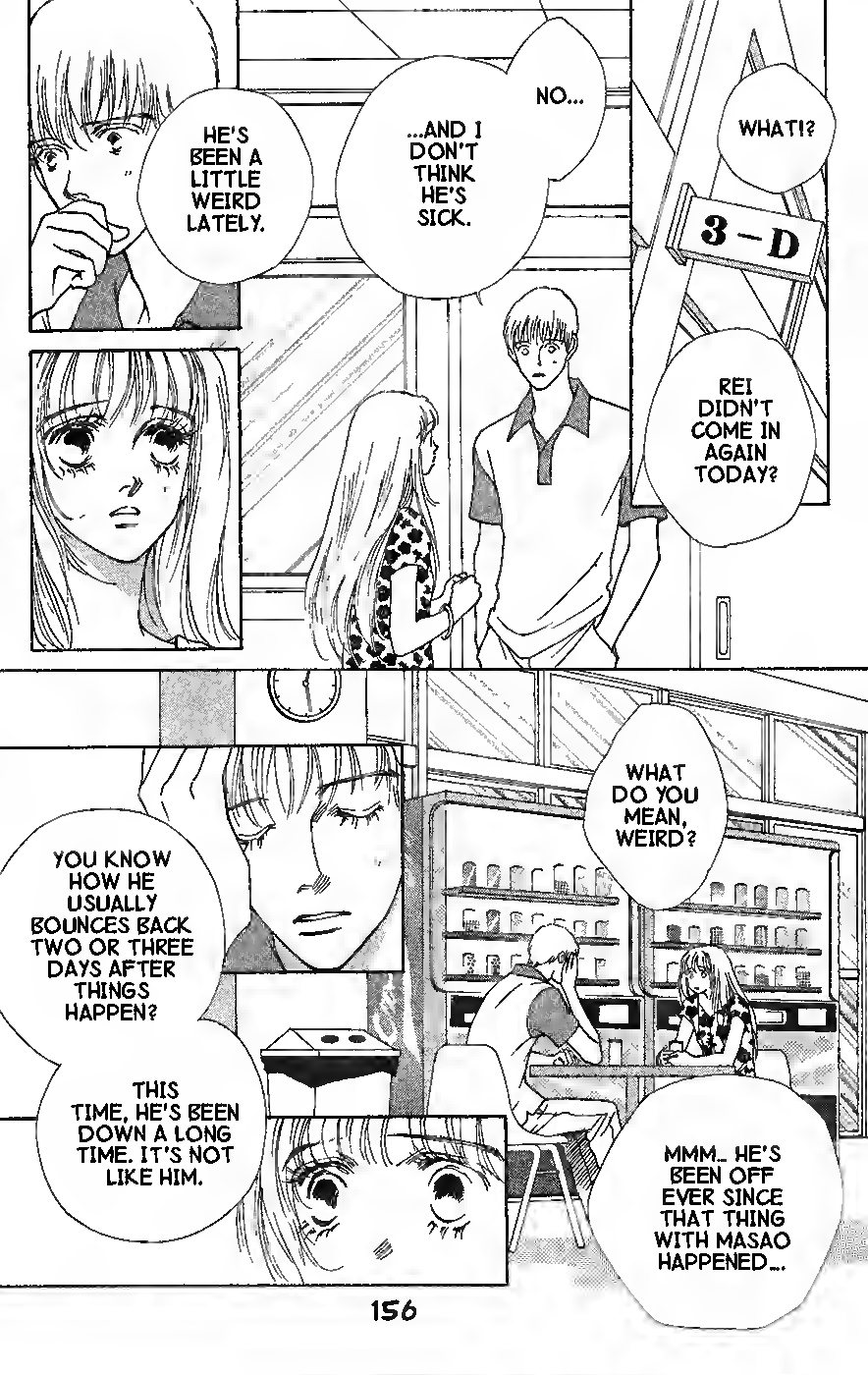

I CAN SEE MASAO...
...RIGHT AFTER HE SHOVED THOSE PEOPLE.
HE WAS PROBABLY JUST WATCHING THEM CURIOUSLY...
...WITH NO ANGER OR HATE IN HIS FACE.
LIKE HE WAS WATCHING DOMINOES THAT SOMEONE ELSE HAD CAREFULLY SET UP START TO FALL.
JUST HAVING FUN...
REI?

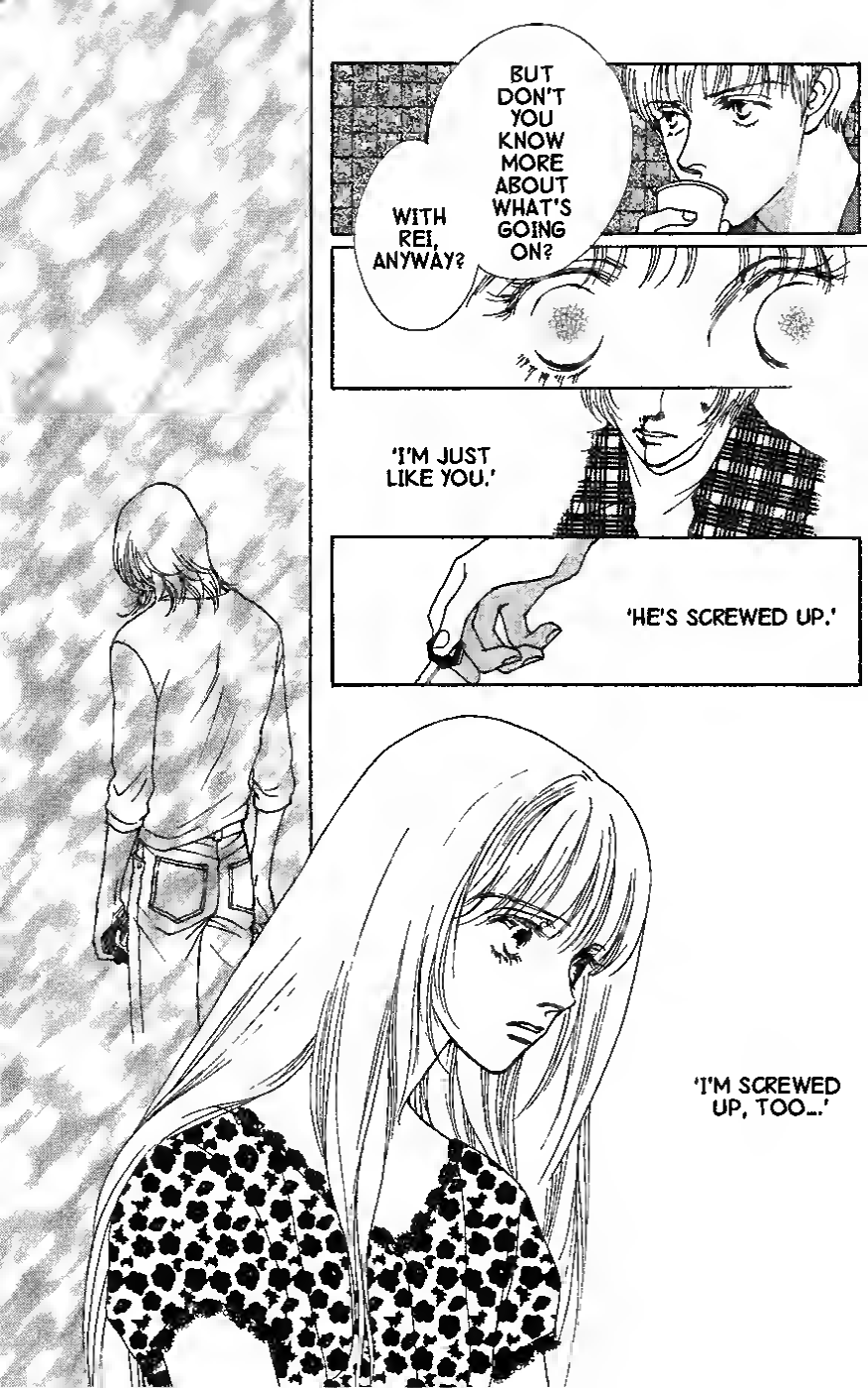

I WONDER WHY?
I KNOW EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
...BUT I UNDERSTAND MASAO, TOO.
I KNOW THAT SOUNDS BAD...
...BUT I STILL KIND OF UNDERSTAND.

IT WAS ONE WEEK LATER.

...THAT MASAO'S EXPULSION FROM SCHOOL WAS FINALIZED.

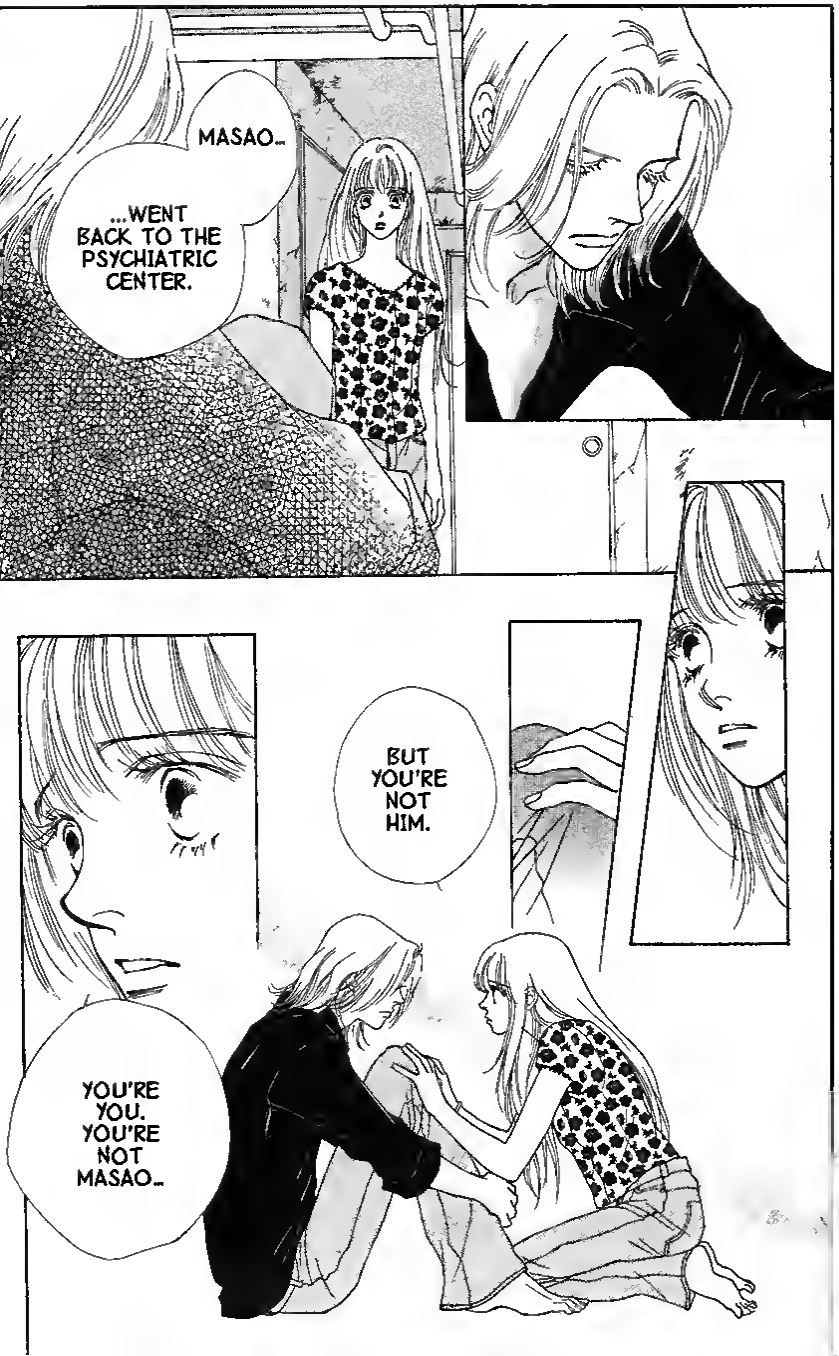



HE'S BEEN A LITTLE WEIRD LATELY.
NO...
...AND I DON'T THINK HE'S SICK.
WHAT!?
3-D
REI DIDN'T COME IN AGAIN TODAY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WEIRD?
YOU KNOW HOW HE USUALLY BOUNCES BACK TWO OR THREE DAYS AFTER THINGS HAPPEN?
THIS TIME, HE'S BEEN DOWN A LONG TIME. IT'S NOT LIKE HIM.
MMM.. HE'S BEEN OFF EVER SINCE THAT THING WITH MASAO HAPPENED...


BUT DON'T YOU KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT'S GOING ON?
WITH REI, ANYWAY?
'I'M JUST LIKE YOU.'
'HE'S SCREWED UP.'
'I'M SCREWED UP, TOO...'

S...SO YOU'RE HERE.
YOU DON'T ANSWER WHEN I CALL AND YOU DIDN'T SHOW UP TO SCHOOL.
WHAT DAY IS IT?
BZZZ
BZZZ
OH

WEDNESDAY...
OH...
YEAH, SCHOOL...
WEDNESDAY...
HAVE YOU LOST WEIGHT?
HMM!?
UM ...
OH NO, I'LL MAKE SOMETHING RIGHT AWAY.
WELL... I HAVEN'T BEEN EATING MUCH.
THAT'S OKAY...
I'M NOT REALLY HUNGRY.

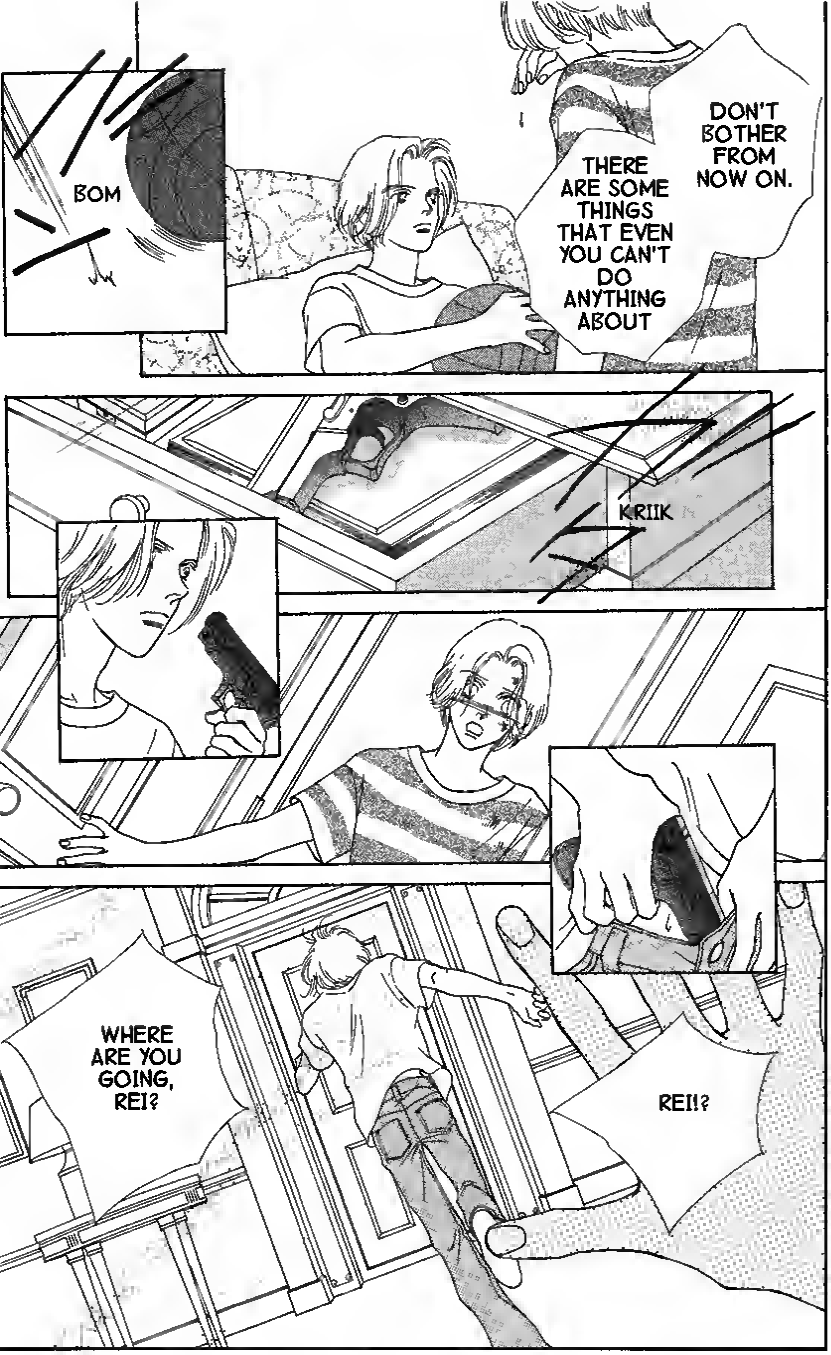

MASAO...
...WENT BACK TO THE PSYCHIATRIC CENTER.
BUT YOU'RE NOT HIM.
YOU'RE YOU. YOU'RE NOT MASAO...

THAT'S NOT TRUE.
LISTEN..
YOU THINK SO?
THE ONLY DIFFERENCE BETWEEN MASAO AND ME IS THE PEOPLE WE MET ALONG THE WAY.
SOMETHING HAPPENED A LONG TIME AGO...WHERE I LOOKED AT SOMEONE AS JUST AN OBJECT.
I DON'T THINK WE'RE REALLY ALL THAT DIFFERENT.

WHEN I THOUGHT OF THIS PERSON AS HAVING NO VALUE.
IT WAS WHEN I WAS STILL LIVING IN L.A.
I THINK I WAS TEN.
I TRIED TO SHOOT SOMEONE.
CHEVR
New 1R0

HE WAS AN UNCONTROLLABLE DELINQUENT AND EVERYONE HATED HIM.

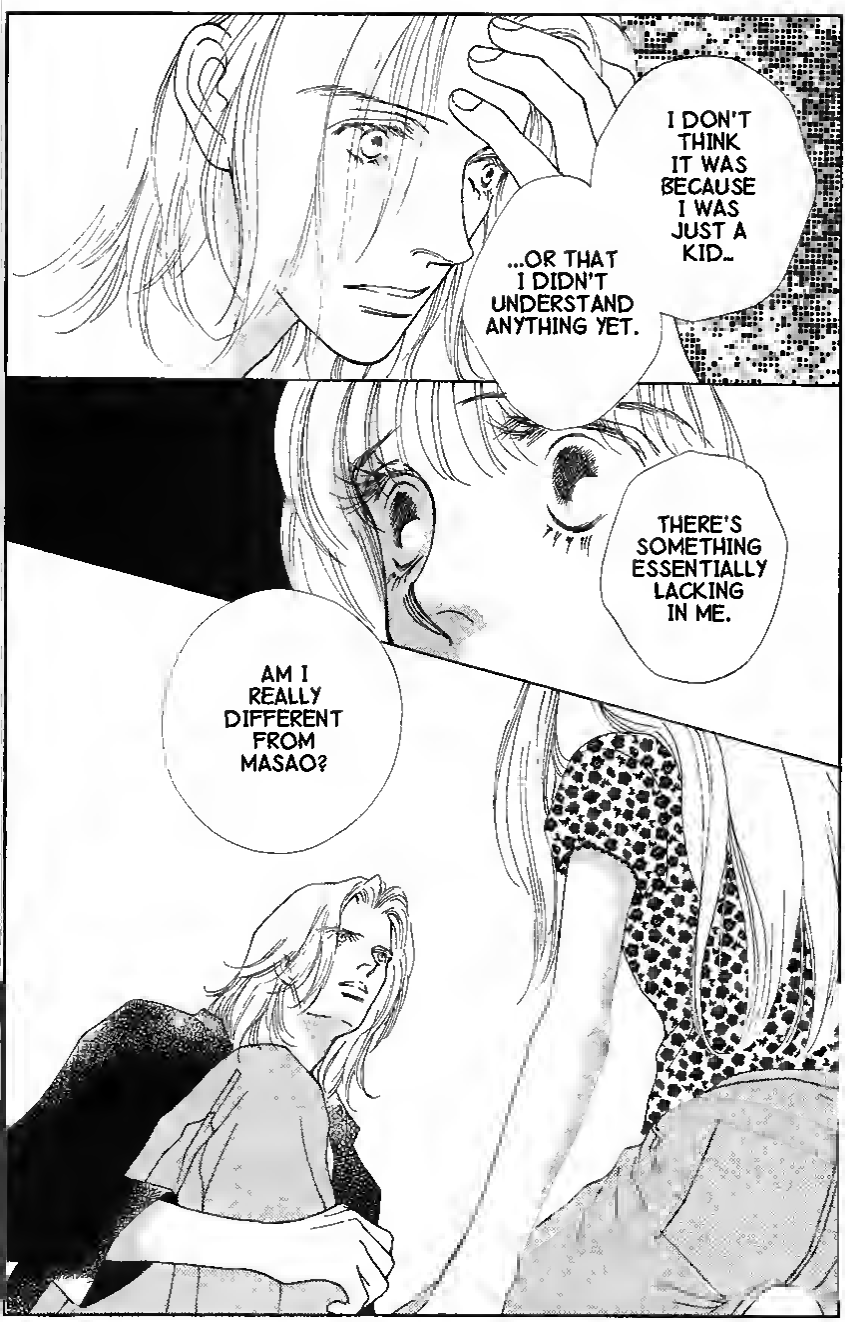
HIS MAIN TARGET WAS SEI, BUT ONE DAY...


BOM
THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT EVEN YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT
DON'T BOTHER FROM NOW ON.
KRIIK
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, REI?
REI!?

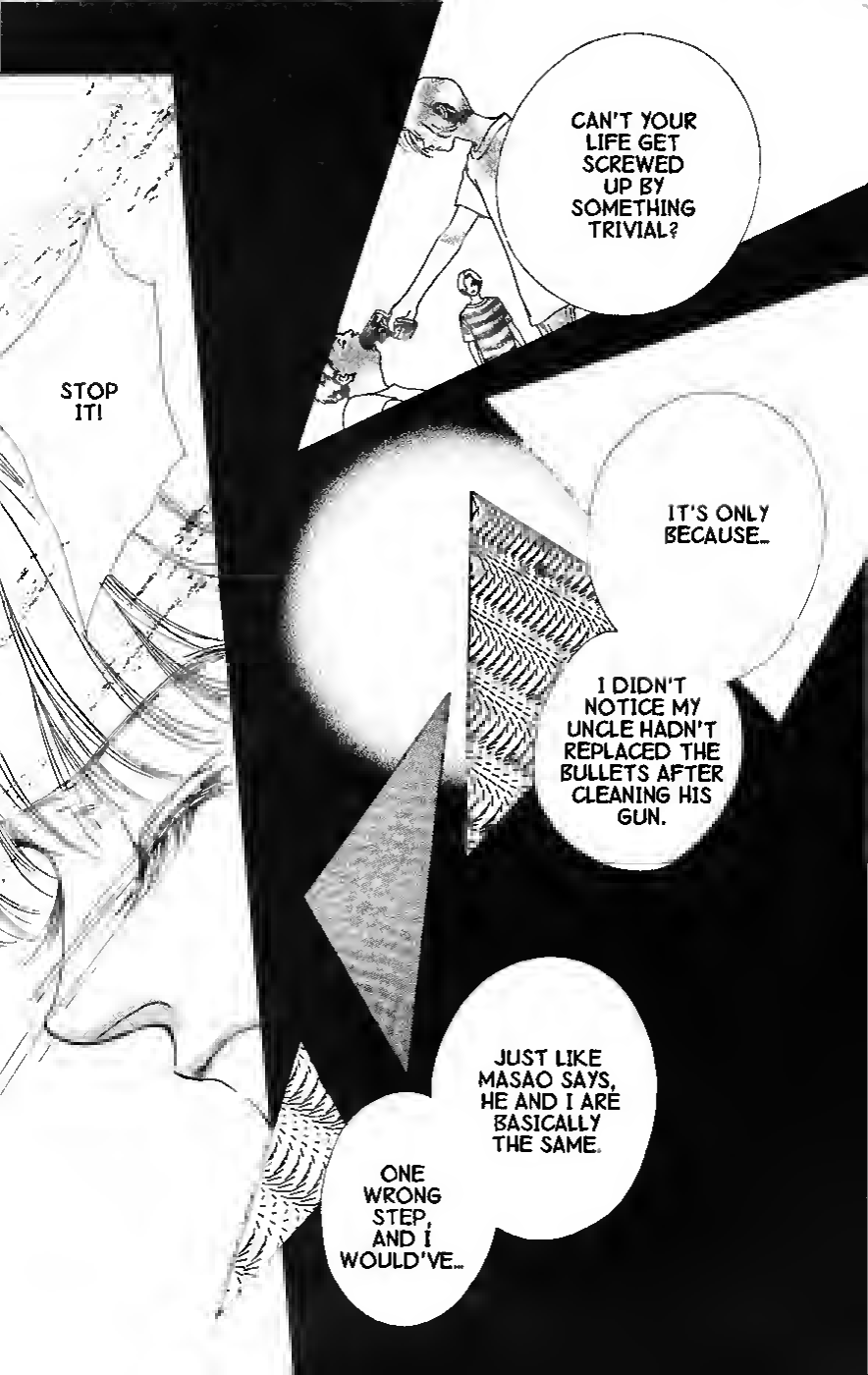
RAASH
BOOFF

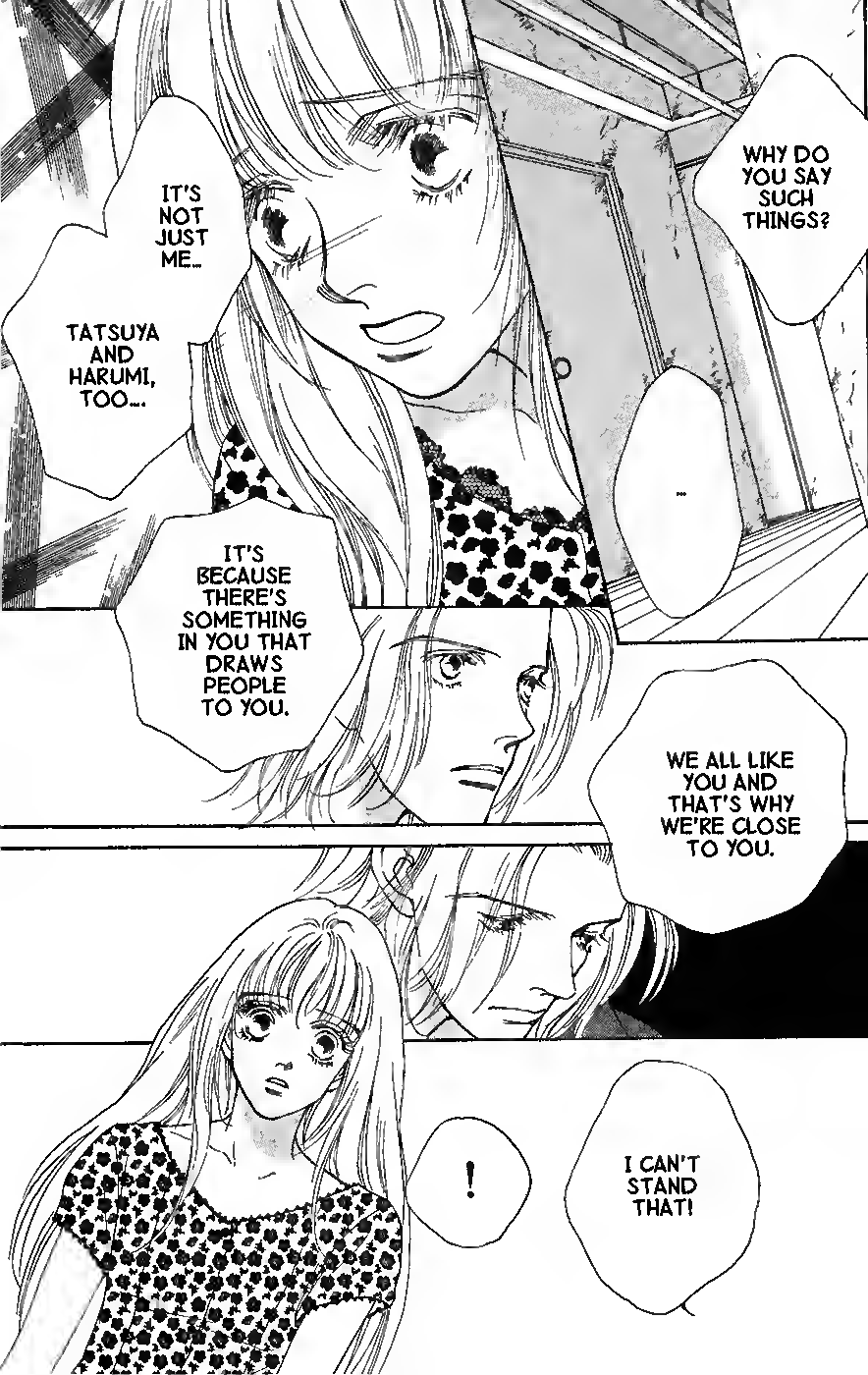
I WOULD HAVE ENDED UP KILLING HIM...
IF MY UNCLE HADN'T TAKEN OUT THE BULLETS THE NIGHT BEFORE.
IF I'D BEEN MORE CAREFUL AND CHECKED FOR BULLETS,
I WOULD HAVE KILLED HIM FOR SURE.
WHY?
WHY DID YOU WANT TO KILL HIM?
THERE MUST HAVE BEEN OTHER SOLUTIONS.

IT WOULD'VE BEEN OVER IN ONE SHOT.
IT WAS TOO MUCH OF A PAIN.
EVERYTHING.
REI...

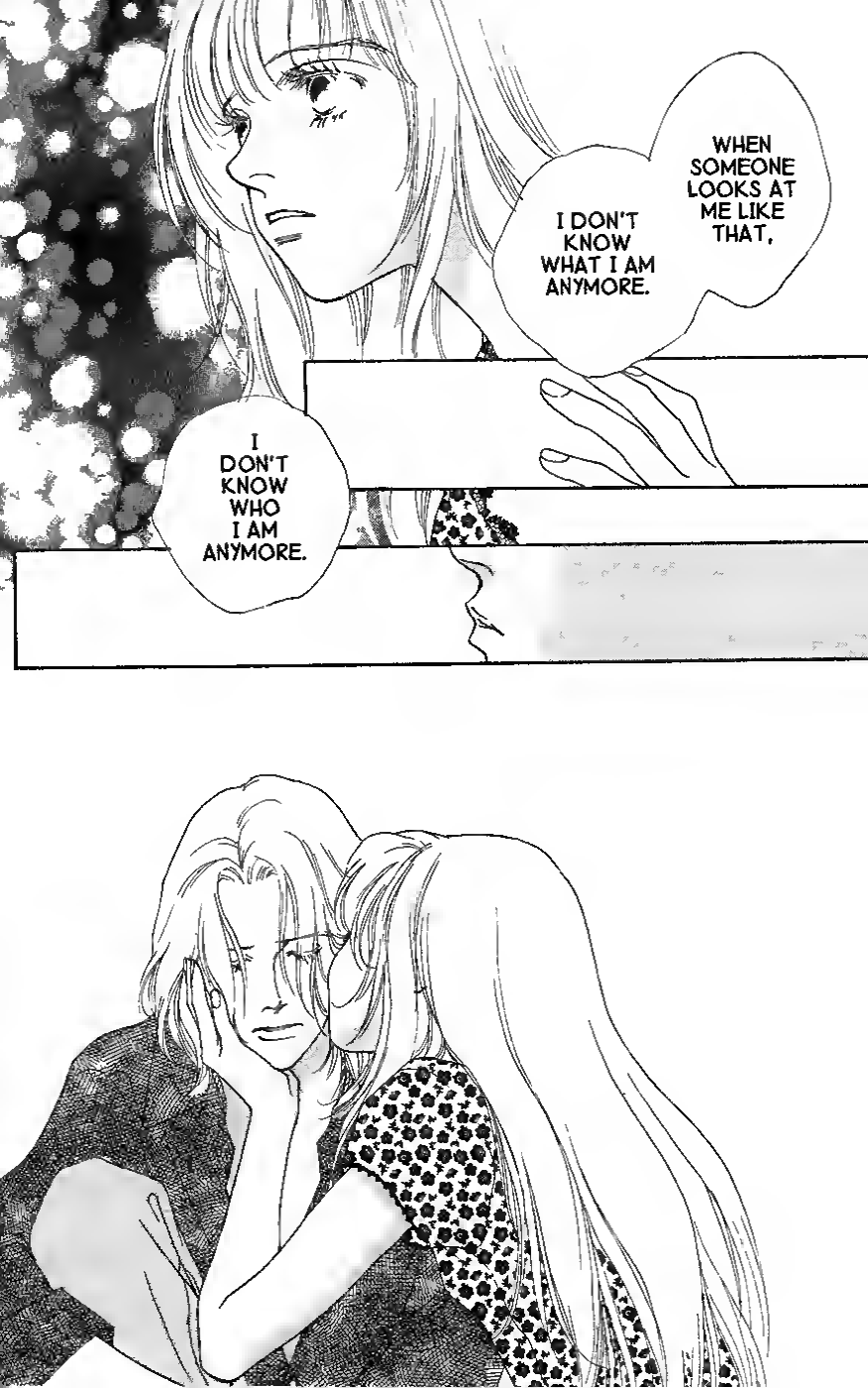

I DON'T THINK IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS JUST A KID..
...OR THAT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING YET.
THERE'S SOMETHING ESSENTIALLY LACKING IN ME.
AM I REALLY DIFFERENT FROM MASAO?

I WAS WITH SEI SINCE WE WERE BORN.
BUT MASAO ONLY HAD YUJI AOKI.
EVEN SINCE SEI'S BEEN GONE, NOW I HAVE YOU...
...AND TATSUYA AND HARUMI.
THAT'S THE WORST POSSIBLE COMBINATION.


CAN'T YOUR LIFE GET SCREWED UP BY SOMETHING TRIVIAL?
STOP IT!
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE...
I DIDN'T NOTICE MY UNCLE HADN'T REPLACED THE BULLETS AFTER CLEANING HIS GUN.
JUST LIKE MASAO SAYS, HE AND I ARE BASICALLY THE SAME.
ONE WRONG STEP, AND I WOULD'VE...

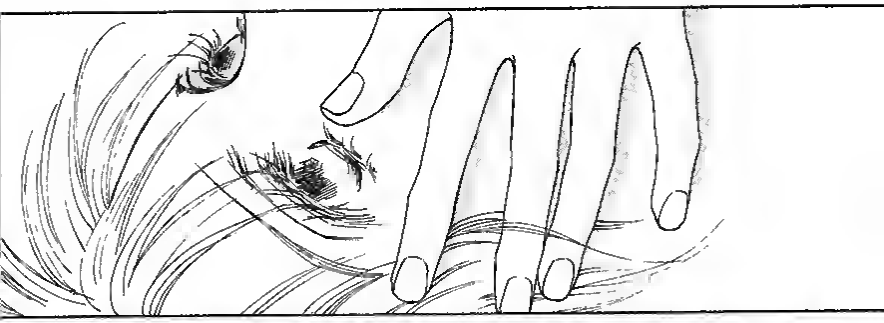

WHY DO YOU SAY SUCH THINGS?
IT'S NOT JUST ME...
TATSUYA AND HARUMI, TOO...
...
IT'S BECAUSE THERE'S SOMETHING IN YOU THAT DRAWS PEOPLE TO YOU.
WE ALL LIKE YOU AND THAT'S WHY WE'RE CLOSE TO YOU.
!
I CAN'T STAND THAT!

WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT,
I REALLY CAN'T STAND IT.
I KEEP THINKING THAT ONE DAY YOU'RE GOING TO LOOK AT ME THE WAY SEI AND MY FATHER DID.
THOSE EYES DENY EVERYTHING ABOUT ME.
MY FATHER'S EYES...
...SO FULL OF HATRED, BUT SCARED, TOO.
HE DOESN'T THINK OF ME AS ANOTHER HUMAN BEING...

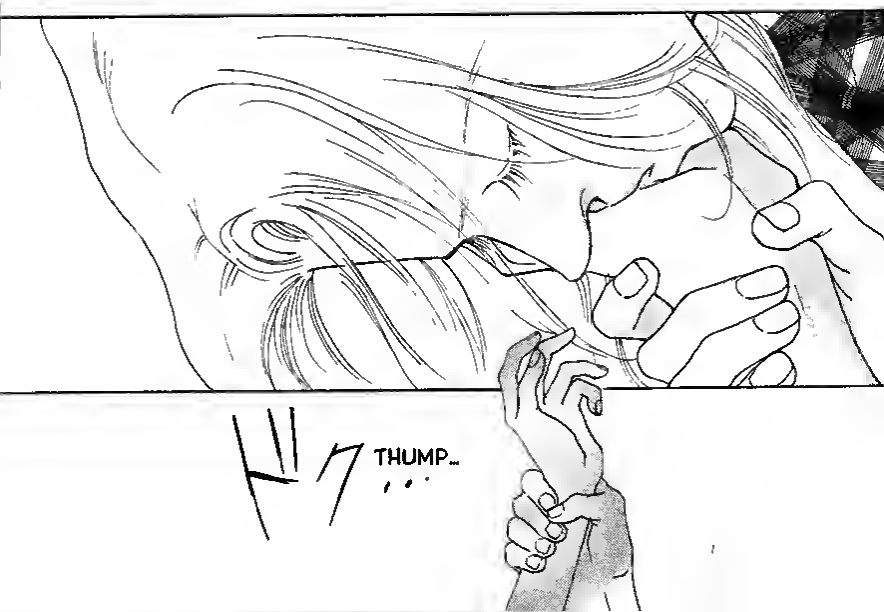

WHEN SOMEONE LOOKS AT ME LIKE THAT,
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I AM ANYMORE.
I DON'T KNOW WHO I AM ANYMORE.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.
I KNOW HOW YOU LAUGH...
...AND HOW YOU CRY.
KIRA...
I KNOW... HOW WARM YOU ARE...

'AFTER SOMETHING LIKE THAT...'



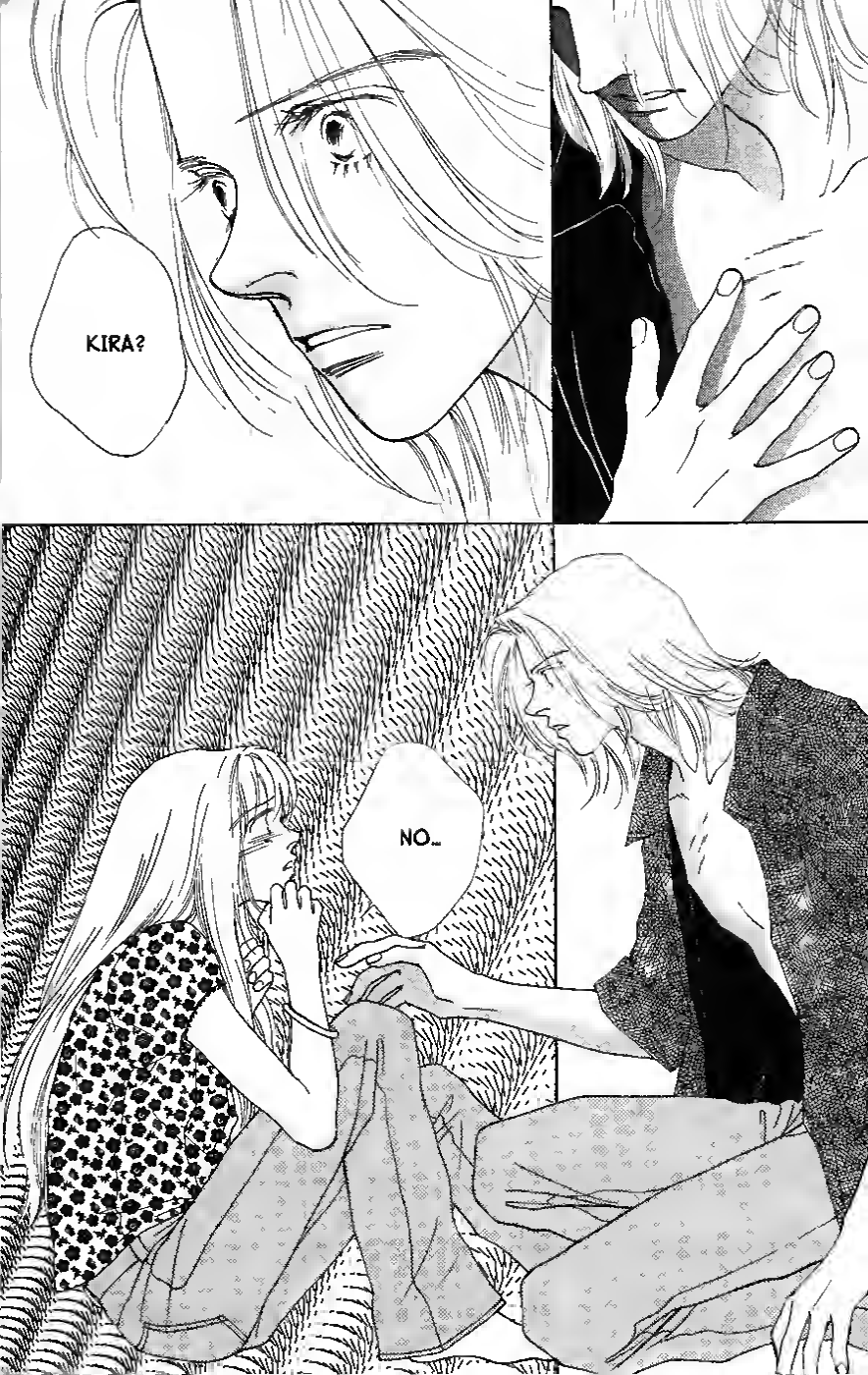
'YOUR MOTHER WOULDN'T BLAME YOU IF YOU KILLED YOURSELF...'



THUMP
THUMP

'DOES REI KNOW YET?'
'N...
'NO...'
NO!
?!

NOOOOO-!
DON'T TOUCH ME!
WHOOSH


KIRA?
NO...

NOOOOOOO-
TO BE CONTINUED...

MARS

## Coming Soon...

## Volume Eight

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**Every time Rei tries to make a move on Kira, she totally freaks and pushes him away. Finally, Rei guesses she's hiding a horrible secret from her past. Meanwhile, as soon as Kira's mother gets out of the hospital, she tells Kira they're moving. When Rei finds out, he asks Kira to come live with him, but she doesn't want to leave her mom. Could this be the end of Rei and Kira's love?**

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Kira and Rei knew their lave was ta die far...but they never dreamed it cauld be deadly! Masaa is the new guy at schaal with a criminal past — and naw he's decided ta direct his vialent temper tawards Kira. When Kira's mather is unexpectedly haspitalized, Rei and Harumi affer their undying suppart. Masaa, wha hates seeing Rei's sensitive side, is autraged, and he attempts ta put Kira aut af the picture farever! As murderaus plats are hatched and hidden secrets revealed, Kira and Rei must fight for each ather — and far their lives.

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